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Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Proceedings at Al-Ta'if Conference

Situation Heading Toward Impasse

NC1710125989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] It appears that the situation in al-Ta'if is heading toward an impasse. Proof of this negative development is the eastern area deputies' raising of the issue of amending the clause on sovereignty. This amendment to the withdrawal clause, introduced by the six-member parliamentary committee the day before yesterday, is still the subject of debate which will not be confined to the deputies. Moreover, the amendment was not appreciated by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, member of the Arab ministerial committee, who was surprised by this amendment and considered it a nonstarter that seeks to alter the essence of the Arab reform document.

According to informed parliamentary sources, further proof of the obstacles to an agreement on the final wording of the document can be seen in General Michel 'Awn's demand that Dr George Sa'adah persist in his efforts to achieve a partial Syrian withdrawal or have the eastern area's deputies leave the al-Ta'if meeting and return to Beirut immediately. Dr Sa'adah's reply is not known. However, it has been learned that he contacted Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr last night and reportedly asked the patriarch to intervene to put an end to Gen 'Awn's daily statements. Sfayr contacted 'Awn and then contacted Dr Sa'adah to convey the results of his contact with 'Awn.

AFP reports that deputies representing various trends believe that the Lebanese deputies have no control over the final fate of the al-Ta'if meetings, which are now dependant on Arab and international contacts to find an answer to the question of the Syrian presence in Lebanon that is acceptable to all.

Written Guarantees on Sovereignty

NC1710184689 Paris AFP in English 1816 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, Oct 17 (AFP)—A three-nation Arab committee promised written guarantees on Lebanon's sovereignty but failed to satisfy Christian demands to set deadlines for a Syrian troop pullout, Christian MPs said. The pledge came on the 18th day of discussions here between Lebanese Christian and Moslem members of parliament on political reforms for strife-torn Lebanon.

The talks were based on a "document of national understanding" drafted by Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, the members of the Arab League committee given the task of finding a settlement to end the Lebanese conflict. Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, speaking for the committee, said for the third time in as many days that the Arab document could not be amended.

The seven-point document outlines ways of restoring peace in Lebanon, mainly through political reforms that would give the Moslem majority more political power.

It also calls for a "redeployment" of some 35,000 Syrian troops occupying two-thirds of Lebanon to positions east of Beirut. The move would begin two years after reforms are endorsed and a president elected. Lebanon has been without a head of state since September 1988.

Christian deputies, who back the staunchly anti-Syrian Christian leader General Michel 'Awn in his vowed determination to drive all Syrian troops from Lebanon, had met for three consecutive days with Prince al-Faysal. They asked him for written guarantees to "restore Lebanon's sovereignty" and offered a plan for phased Syrian troop withdrawal from their country to begin six months after a vote on reforms and end within three years.

But Prince Sa'ud said only that the kings of Saudi Arabia and Morocco and the Algerian president would sign a letter addressed to the MPs "pledging their assistance in restoring Lebanon's sovereignty," two Christian deputies said.

The Arab document in its original form has the backing of all pro-Syrian Moslem MPs and Damascus. Washington, Paris and London are also supporting it, irking Lebanon's traditionally pro-Western Christian community. The Christian deputies were meanwhile planning to meet later Tuesday to agree on a series of points they wish to see in the letter, before meeting again with the Saudi official. [passage omitted]

Promise of Guarantees Denied

NC1810075789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Excerpts] According to reports from al-Ta'if, some progress has been made at the talks in the past few hours although nothing final has been achieved, particularly with regard to the sovereignty issue. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent cites a Shiite parliamentary source as saying that the atmosphere is currently positive and seeks to find points of agreement and acceptable solutions to the sovereignty and withdrawal issues. He denied, however, that the Christian deputies had received a definite promise of a written guarantee regarding the withdrawal. AFP last night quoted Christian deputies in al-Ta'if as announcing that they had been promised a written guarantee from the tripartite committee pledging help in restoring Lebanese sovereignty. The agency said the promise was given in view of the inability to obtain a timetable for a complete Syrian withdrawal from the country. According to the agency, the promise was made by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal. Two members of the delegation which met with the Saudi minister noted that he did not directly

state his position on the contents of the memorandum submitted by the East Beirut deputies and declared that essential points in the Arab document cannot be amended. He promised, however, that issues that remain unresolved will be included in a letter to the deputies which will be signed by the Saudi and Moroccan kings and the Algerian president in which they will promise to assist in restoring Lebanese sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Central Council Issues Final Statement

JN1710215489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1940 GMT 17 Oct 89

["Text" of PLO Central Council final statement issued at the end of its meetings in Baghdad on 16 October]

[Text] The PLO Central Council held a session of meetings in Baghdad 15-17 [as heard] October 1989. During this session, the council discussed several political and organizational issues, and developments in the Palestinian cause at this stage. The great intifadah of our people in their occupied homeland, and the requirements of its steadfastness and development were at the top of the Council's agenda. The Council noted a series of important developments that had taken place in the intifadah's march and in the march of the Palestinian national struggle in general since its previous session on 31 March 1989. Foremost among the developments witnessed over the past months are the following:

1. The continued popular resurgence and its growth in confronting the Zionist occupation, and the enhancement of the militancy and popular nature of the intifadah.

2. The intensification of Israeli repression and its recourse to new methods, including the war of starvation and siege, comprehensive confiscations, orders to kill the sons of our people, the increase in arrests and deportations out of the homeland, and the destruction of houses—not to mention all the other forms of collective punishment.

3. The escalation and the spreading of popular defiance of the occupation's plans; and the enhancement of popular cohesion in major battles, such as the battle of the magnetic cards fought by the workers of the heroic Gaza Strip, the battle of Bayt Sahur's steadfastness, the courageous popular confrontation of Nabulus, and the other battles of heroic defiance waged by our masses throughout our entire occupied land.

4. The enhancement of the unity of national ranks; the failure of the attempts by the enemy to damage national unity, particularly following its announcement of what was called the Israeli Government's election plan; the national concensus on rejecting this liquidatory plan; and the continued rallying around the PLO.

5. The growth of the intifadah has deepened its impact on Israeli society; inflicted tangible losses on the economy; increased the voices calling for a dialogue with the PLO; brought about disarray and division within the ruling institution and parties; and, in general, has increased the isolation of Israel and its rulers' policies inside and outside Israel.

6. In spite of the many forms of imperialist and Zionist conspiracy, and the media siege against the intifadah, the sympathy and support of international public opinion have increased. The most recent proof of this is UN General Asembly Resolution No 140 supporting, against two opposing voices—those of the United States and Israel—and the abstention of six [as heard]; as well as the EEC Madrid summit resolutions, the summit of the socialist countries in Bucharest, the positions taken by the PRC, Japan, the nonaliged summit, the Islamic summit, the African summit, the statement by the Scandinavian countries' foreign ministers, and other international positions.

World recognition of the State of Palestine has also increased. The U.S. Administration, in spite of its continued disavowal of our people's right to self-determination, and its support for Israel, its policies, and its crimes has, as a result of the intifadah and the Palestinian peace initiative, made statements calling for the termination of the Israeli occupation, the exchange of land for peace, and the abandonment of the idea of Greater Israel.

7. The Casablanca resolutions reflected Arab support for the Palestinian cause and for the PLO and its policy. The Arab summit's adoption of the Palestinian peace plan—which is based on the resolutions of the Palestine National Council—gave an important Arab dimension to these resolutions on the international scene.

8. Over the past few months, the PLO has conducted a tough dialogue with the U.S. Administration. Although this dialogue has failed to reach tangible political results, it has helped to explain the aims of the PLO and its policy to large sectors of world public opinion, including U.S. public opinion. It has emphasized that the U.S. Administration has actually and practically begun to deal with the PLO as a sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The dialogue has also disclosed the U.S. stances, which support the policy of Israel's rulers, and has further embarrassed Washington and tightened the noose around it. During this dialogue, the PLO adhered to its principled national line, and rejected the ideas and proposals that encroach upon the soleness of Palestinian representation and upon our sacred rights to repatriation, self- determination, and national independence. It exposed the premeditated intentions to pass liquidatory plans, such as Shamir's plan and any other propsals that harm our peoples' representation and their inalienable rights. For its part, the PLO presented a number of tangible proposals aimed at advancing the peace process and the movement toward the international conference.

O masses of our great people, masses of our heroic Arab nation: The continuation of the blessed intifadah and its firmness on the soil of the homeland; the management of the political battle in accordance with the right policy adopted by the PLO leadership on the basis of the PNC resolutions in Algiers; and the Palestinian peace initiative produced by this policy and unleashed by brother President Yasir 'Arafat in his speech before the United Nations in Geneva opened the way for the group of achievements that were scored. They also led to the growth of national victories toward realizing our peoples' aims of return, self-determination, and the establishment of our independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, on our sacred soil.

The current developments place us before a number of situations and basic tasks, foremost of which are:

—To adhere to the resolutions of the PNC and the Palestinian peace initiative and reject all alternative plans, projects, or proposals, because the Palestinian peace initiative includes the necessary elements for a just and comprehensive peace and is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy;
—To adhere to the resolutions of the Casablanca summit resolutions and endeavor to activate the Arab role to implement these resolutions and to highlight their contents, especially concerning the idea of elections, which must be conducted under international supervision, after the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories, and as part of the comprehensive peace process, and the need for all Arab countries without exception to abide by these resolutions;
—To firmly confront the U.S. policy, which continues to be based on rejecting our people's right to self-determination and on supporting and shielding the Israeli policy. This policy has recently been showcased by the U.S. proposals, which aim to impose trusteeship on Palestinian representation, deny our people's rights and the PLO's role, and adopt the Shamir plan as a basis for a solution;
—To consolidate joint coordination and action in order to add further support to the Palestinian peace initiative and to prepare for an international conference with the Soviet Union, the socialist bloc, the European states and Japan, the nonaligned states, the Islamic group, the African states, the northern European states, and all the states that have recognized the State of Palestine and displayed solidarity with the Palestinian peace initiative. Regarding the proposal calling for Palestinian-Israeli talks, the required conditions to make these talks a step toward achieving a just solution are as follows:

1. Only the PLO has the right to select and declare a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside [the occupied territories] for talks with Israel.
2. The Palestinian stand during these talks will be based on the Palestinian peace initiative, which relies on and adheres to international legitimacy.
3. The agenda of the meeting must be open and without preconditions.
4. This meeting should be considered as preparatory talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides and a step toward convening an effective international conference, which constitutes the only appropriate framework for negotiations that can lead to a comprehensive and just settlement of the conflict in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and international legitimacy.
5. This preparatory meeting should be attended by delegations from the UN Security Council permanent member states, the UN secretary general, and representatives for the other concerned parties, including Egypt and Sweden.

In its capacity as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO affirms that it is the only authorized party to choose Palestinian representatives. It affirms that any matters related to the Palestinian cause and rights and the peace process and its steps cannot take place without the PLO's full and effective participation;

—To launch a large-scale political and media campaign on both Arab and international levels to explain the Palestinian stand and assert the Palestinian peace initiative in confronting all liquidatory plans and schemes;
—To work continuously to promote the role of Palestinian communities outside the homeland in supporting the intifadah and in all political and media fields, as well as family cooperation;
—To work to promote and activate the PLO establishments to achieve further productive action to serve the intifadah;
—To appeal to the sisterly Arab states to facilitate the circumstances of the Palestinians residing in these states so as to be able to support their kinfolk in the occupied Palestinian territories;
—To work on the Arab level to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions and convene the five-sided Arab meeting and the Arab committee for supporting the intifadah, honor the political, financial, and media commitments adopted by the Arab summit; and to work to consolidate relations with all Arab states on the basis of these resolutions and respect for the national Palestinian decisionmaking. Within this framework, we reiterate our appeal for the Arab states and the Arab masses to support our blessed intifadah and its masses through all means of assistance. This is the national wish and a pan-Arab responsibility to guarantee the continuation and escalation of the intifadah until national independence is achieved;
—To work to establish a popular Arab front supporting the intifadah comprising all Arab forces, parties, organizations, unions, and nationalist figures, and to bolster the committees for supporting the intifadah;
—To motivate action within the circles of the international public opinion and all committees, organizations, and parties to support the intifadah, expose the Israeli rulers' crimes and terrorist acts, condemn their anti-peace policy, and urge the international community to provide protection to our people and impose the sanctions stipulated by the UN Charter on Israel;

—To act on the American scene to unite and direct Palestinian, Arab, and friendly efforts and resources toward addressing the most influential sectors of public opinion in order to expose the Israeli occupation crimes and its extremist policy, which is against peace, as well as the U.S. Government's support for this policy.

—To work together with those Israeli forces that seek a just peace based on the recognition of our people's right to self- determination and independence in order to promote these forces' role and contribution to confronting the policy of Israel's rulers.

O masses of our great people: Our people's steadfastness and the continuation of our brave intifadah increases the brutality of the hostile forces' onslaught.

The American position, particularly the element that supports Shamir and his policy, and which backs—without limit—Israel and its schemes, has been exposed. This element stands alone before the world on the side of the Israeli crimes and the Zionist fascist practices. While the U.S. Administration is boasting about human rights everywhere, it remains silent when these rights are violated in Palestine, where the killing and organized official terrorism are carried out with U.S. support and funds. The exposed American maneuvers and deception of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation have continued through their exposed attempts to strike at the intifadah and to conspire against Palestinian rights.

In the interest of continuing the Israeli occupation, its schemes, and crimes, the U.S. Administration has continued its policy of disregarding all Palestinian, Arab, and international peace initiatives, ignoring the large-scale positive international position of suppport for the just Palestinian rights.

This American policy urgently requires the convening of Arab meetings on the highest levels to confront the American-Israeli scheme against the Palestinian people, their blessed intifadah, and inalienable national rights. These meetings must adopt the measures, decisions, and positions demanded by our national and pan- Arab responsibilities at this decisive and historic stage of the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

As the PLO Central Council greets the Unified National Leadership, all popular committees and structures, national councils and institutions, all our great people—the people of intifadah and sacrifices—in the cities and camps of the occupied homeland and the steadfast camps of the diaspora, the souls of our people's heroic martyrs, and thousands of steadfast detainees, prisoners, and wounded despite the torture and repression; and it affirms that through our determination, firm national unity, through continuing our blessed intifadah, and through consolidating our firm national approach, victory will be achieved and the independent national state will be established with all its sovereignty and power on the sacred soil.

Our militant people will succeed in achieving their objectives of ending the Israeli occupation, repatriation, self-determination, and complete sovereignty in their state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Out of its belief in the unity of destiny between the Palestinian and Lebanese people, and out of its faithfulness to the joint struggle which unites them—the struggle embodied by the unity of the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters in steadfast southern Lebanon against the Zionist enemy—the PLO Central Council reiterates the PLO's firm concern for Lebanon's Arabism and unity—land, people, and institutions—for spreading Lebanese sovereignty over the entire Lebanese soil without foreign interference, and for supporting the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee to achieve this solution 'o guarantee security and stability in Lebanon and for its fraternal people.

As the PLO Central Council greets the victory of sisterly Iraq under the leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn while celebrating the rehabilitation of the heroic city of al-Faw, it affirms the need to transform the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran into a permanent peace between the two countries that is based on the policy of neighborliness and in a manner that preserves sisterly Iraq's full rights of sovereignty over its territories and waters in accordance with Resolution No. 598.

Qaddumi Announces PLO's Rejection of Baker Plan

JN1710193889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 17 Oct (WAKH)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has announced the PLO's rejection of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals on holding Israeli-Palestinian talks. The proposals are unacceptable as they fail to meet a basic requirement—namely, the PLO's representation in any peace talks in the region, he said.

In a statement to WAM, Qaddumi said the U.S. stance does not reflect a serious move toward a just settlement in the region as long as it ignores the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He stressed that Egyptian-Palestinian coordination is aimed at advancing the peace process, which has reached a deadlock thanks to Israel's intransigence.

The Egyptian move, he said, is part of several moves by Arab and friendly states to push forward peace efforts in the Middle East.

Asked how the PLO envisages the future strategy to restore the Palestinian peoples' rights, Qaddumi said the strategy will aim at winning support for the Palestinian peace initiative. He stressed that this initiative has started to enjoy international support as the world community has realized the seriousness of the PLO's peaceful inclinations. However, Qaddumi expressed the belief that the emergence of the Lebanese issue at the top

of the region's priorities at this stage has hindered the intensification of world efforts toward resolving the Palestine issue.

He commended the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee to resolve the Lebanese crisis and expressed confidence that a solution to this crisis will reflect positively on the Palestine question and take it back to the top of the world's agenda.

Qaddumi said the PLO will intensify its contacts in the next stage with various world parties, especially the Soviet Union and the other Security Council permanent member states, so that these countries can make further efforts to apply pressure on Israel to reach a peaceful settlement of the Palestine question. He pointed out that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue has not yet produced positive results. On the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, Qaddumi stressed the PLO's total rejection of Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine. "We openly expressed this view to the Soviet Union, and we hope that this suject will be settled on the basis of the good relations between the PLO and the Soviet Union," he said. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi Leaves Abu Dhabi 18 Oct

JN1810090089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0555 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Oct (WAKH)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, left Abu Dhabi early today following a 2-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], during which he conveyed the condolences of the Palestinian people and leadership on the death of Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan.

The Palestinian official also held talks with a number of UAE officials on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena.

Salah Khalaf: No Question of PNC Session Now

PM1710123789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Oct 89 pp 1, 2

[Zaki Shihab report: "Abu-Iyad Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Summoning Palestine National Council for a Meeting Is Out of the Question at Present"]

[Text] London—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf has stated that convening the Palestine National Council [PNC] for a meeting is out of the question at present. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said that the Palestine Central Council which is due to meet in the Iraqi capital next Sunday is in a fact a miniature PNC authorized to make decisions regarding future plans and PLO policies.

Abu-Iyad said that in its meetings over the past few days, Fatah's Central Committee drew up a concept of what issues ought to be discussed at the Baghdad meeting with special emphasis on ways of supporting the popular intifadah in the occupied territory and of confronting the coercive measures taken by the enemy authorities in most Palestinian towns, villages, and camps.

He warned that the PLO will not remain idle in the face of the continued enemy siege of Bayt Sahur and confiscation of its people's property and repression to force the people to pay taxes.

The Palestinian leader refused to say what position the PLO intends to take in this connection. He said that property worth $4 million has been confiscated in Bayt Sahur. He urged the Arab and international public opinion to act in support of the people of Bayt Sahur and in support of the steadfastness of all the people of the occupied territory.

On the meetings held in Tunis by the Palestinian leadership, including all factions, he said the purpose was to review developments affecting the Palestinian cause, the Israeli rejection of the Egyptian 10 points, and the U.S. Administration's support for the letter and spirit of the position taken by Yitzhaq Shamir's government.

He added that continued U.S. adoption of the Israeli position serves neither the peace process nor the U.S. position as a mediator in that process.

Salah Khalaf revealed that in November he intends to tour a number of East European states for consultation, particularly following the restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel by some of these states and following contacts made to pave the way for such a move.

He said that during its meetings the Palestinian leadership reaffirmed the PLO's fixed principles, especially self-determination for the Palestinian people and the need for free elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and for an international conference as the only way of establishing durable peace in the region.

PNC and Central Council member Salih al-Barghuti said in statements published yesterday that he expects the PNC to be convened for a meeting soon to reconsider the PLO's current policies.

Abu-Iyad said that the PLO's peaceful line is not a maneuver but a strategy. The PLO, he said, will continue to pursue that line until international public opinion becomes totally opposed to Israel and Israeli policies.

Abu-Sharif on Possibilities for Negotiations

NC1710193089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Bonn, 17 Oct (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has asserted that the PLO is ready to start negotiations with the Israeli Government immediately and without preconditions.

In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent, Abu-Sharif, who is currently visiting Bonn, said: I do not believe there is a more positive stand facilitating the peace process than this stand of ours.

Abu-Sharif was commenting on a statement by the U.S. State Department spokeswoman, in which she urged the PLO to go along with the positive developments in the peace efforts.

Abu-Sharif also commented on developments in the region, the European and Soviet roles, the Syrian-Palestinian situation, and the Egyptian-Libyan rapprochement.

He noted the U.S. State Department spokeswoman's appeal to the PLO to avoid any measure that might have a negative effect on the current peace moves. He said that the U.S. Government should display courage, tell the world the truth, and [word indistinct] that Israel, not the PLO, is the obstacle to peace and that Israel is attempting to divert the road to the dialogue which leads to peace. He added that Israel has so far rejected all efforts, including President Mubarak's questions.

Abu-Sharif said: We are now wondering how serious the U.S. Administration is about taking constructive measures to establish peace.

He expressed opposition to the idea that there should not be a Palestinian role in determining the participants of the Palestinian delegation. He pointed out that the PLO is the sole legitimate Palestinian representative, with whom the U.S. Administration has been discussing Middle East affairs and the search for a just and comprehensive solution since last December.

Touching on Palestinian efforts in the European arena, Abu-Sharif disclosed that he had held unpublicized meetings in France and that he plans to visit London in the near future to resume consultations on the latest developments in the Middle East.

Abu-Sharif said: We hope the EC will take action to avert a deadlock in the Middle East peace process and exert efforts which will culminate in practical proposals to maintain the momentum. We hope it will persuade the U.S. Administration that it is high time Israel realized that the only viable way to arrive at a comprehensive political solution is to sit at the negotiating table with the PLO. [passage omitted]

Abu-Sharif was asked about his earlier remarks on his willingness to negotiate with any Israeli personality, even inside Israel, and whether the criticism triggered by these remarks has subsided. He said: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir settled this matter when he announced that he would put me in prison if I visited Israel. He added: We wanted to prove to international public opinion that it is the Israeli Government, rather than the PLO, which is obstructing peace. [passage omitted]

On his personal view of the obstacle hindering Palestinian-Syrian rapprochement, Abu-Sharif said there are no personal disputes among officials of the two sides. He explained that current disputes are of a political nature.

Asked if the time has come to rise above these differences, particularly in view of current inter-Arab rapprochements like that between Egypt and Libya, Abu-Sharif said that Yasir 'Arafat played a central role in inter-Arab rapprochement in order to reunify the Arabs vis-a-vis the Israeli intransigence. He expressed the hope that brother Syrians will start to take action for a real unity of ranks in the face of that intransigence. He remarked that this can be achieved through serious and positive action to end the Lebanese problem. This way, he said, the Syrians will have served the Arab cause. He went on to say that Arab cohesion enables the Arab countries to use their collective weight to persuade the U.S. Administration of the need to take a stand on Israel's intransigence.

Touching on the Soviet role, Abu-Sharif remarked that the Soviet Union is a major partner in the peace process and that no peace can be achieved without its participation.

Abu-Sharif concluded that the only viable way to bring about a comprehensive political settlement is to hold an international peace conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties concerned.

DFLP Criticizes Failure To Reject Baker Plan

JN1710133889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] led by Nayif Hawatimah has issued a statement expressing regret that the PLO Central Council did not frankly and categorically reject U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals. The Front said that the fact that the Council's final statement does not clearly reject the proposals does not reflect the true position of the PLO Central Council.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Bhargava Named New SAARC Secretary General

BK1310025989 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Mr K.K. Bhargava of India is to be the new SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] secretary general. He takes over from Mr Abu Ahsan of Bangladesh. Mr Bhargava is currently India's high commissioner in Mauritius.

SAARC Ministers Meeting Planned on 8 Nov

BK1510042089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] The foreign ministers of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, will be meeting in Islamabad on the 8th of next month. The meeting will discuss the issues of mutual interest among the member-states. It will also decide the venue and date of the next summit of the SAARC. Sri Lanka has agreed to attend the meeting. The meeting, earlier scheduled to be held in July, was postponed due to boycott by Sri Lanka.

Algeria

Italian Foreign Minister Holds Cooperation Talks

LD1610144289 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpt] We have just learned that the Algerian-Italian talks started this morning at al-Mithaq Residence, with a tete-a-tete meeting between Foreign Minister Ahmed Sayed Ghazali, and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis. These talks, which were extended later to the members of the two delegations, dealt with the prospects for consolidating bilateral cooperation relations, and constructing a framework for the cooperation relations between the Arab Maghreb Union and the EEC.

The two sides also tackled the current international situation, especially the situation in the Middle East, and the Lebanese issue. [passage omitted]

Comments on 'Excellent' Relations

LD1710084689 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpt] After leaving the office of the president of the Republic, the head of Italian diplomacy made a statement to the journalists, in which he said:

[Begin De Michelis recording in French with simultaneous Arabic translation] We talked about the various points related to political, economic, and cultural relations between Algeria and Italy, and we noticed the excellent state of these relations. We expressed the common will of Italy, in the context of the European Community, and Algeria in the framework of the Arab Maghreb and homeland, to solve the problems existing in the region of the Mediterranean Sea basin and the Middle East, such as Lebanon, Palestine, and the Western Sahara. We noticed that our standpoints were similar.

I affirmed to the president of the Republic that Italy's effort would be equal to that of Algeria. We also talked about economic cooperation and the necessity to develop it in the various fields.

We also hope that the visit—President Cossiga's visit—to Algeria next November will strengthen these efforts. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Holds News Conference

LD1710085289 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Following his visit to Algeria, the Italian foreign minister held a news conference before leaving Algiers, in which he answered questions from journalists regarding the prospects for bilateral cooperation, after he pointed out that this visit was to prepare for Italian President Cossiga's visit to our country, scheduled for next month. In order to solve political problems, the Italian minister affirmed that Algeria and Italy have a unified view in this domain.

Answering a question related to some economic projects agreed upon between Algeria and Italy, he said that the studies related to the project of construction of a Fiat plant for cars were very advanced and this matter would be completed after the Italian president's visit to Algeria.

Regarding the results achieved by the al-Ta'if meeting to solve the Lebanese crisis, the Italian minister praised the efforts which were made, and which are being made, by the tripartite committee and particularly Algeria, in order to achieve a positive solution to the questions put forward at the negotiating table.

Foreign Minister on Progress at Al-Ta'if

LD1710085889 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] As the Lebanese deputies search in the al-Ta'if meetings for a solution to the article concerning the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon, the war of words continue between General Michael 'Awn and Syria.

On the prospects for implementing the settlement plan prepared by the tripartite commmittee, and also for solving the existing disagreement between the Christian and Muslim deputies concerning the withdrawal of the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanese territories, Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Sayed Ghazali, who was seeing his Italian opposite number off at Houari Boumedeinne Airport, said into colleague Ahmed Charmati's microphone:

[Begin Ghazali recording] In fact now—in the past 15 days since the beginning of the meeting [word indistinct], there is progress. The deputies have reacehed some reforms. The reforms are a vital part of the document. There is agreement. Dialogue continues among the Lebanese. The committee is trying to help the direct opponents. The committee is trying to help in solving the problem of the presence of non-Lebanese forces. [passage indistinct]

The expectations? It is not possible now to say whether we will reach a solution in the (?coming 2 or 3 days) [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Briefs Bendjedid on Meeting

LD1610145489 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Algiers, 16/10/89 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid audienced Sunday here Foreign Minister Ahmed Sayed Ghazali, who briefed him on the works of the Lebanese Parliament in al-Ta'if (Saudi Arabia) in the frame of the implementation of the peace plan of the Arab tripartite committee. The minister also informed the head of state on the contribution of Algeria within

the Ministerial Committee in order to gather and consolidate conditions for the restoration of a stable, united, and strong Lebanese state.

Islamic Salvation Front Wants Prisoners Released

LD1310133889 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Islamic Front for Salvation called for the release of all its political prisoners, including those connected with the case of Mustafa Bouyali.

The statement said that the front has pursued this matter with the Ministry of Justice.

Retrial of Islamic Fundamentalists Begins

NC1510131589 Paris AFP in English 1212 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Algiers, Oct 15 (AFP)—Fifteen Algerian Islamic extremists belonging to an armed organisation fighting to impose Islamic law in Algeria, were back on trial Sunday just over two years after being handed heavy sentences by the now-defunct state security court.

The 15 have been granted a retrial before a criminal court in Blida, about 60 kilometers (37 miles) south of here in the area where most of the offences of which they are accused took place.

At their previous trial in July 1987, the three principal defendants were sentenced to death, four were sentenced to life imprisonment and the remaining eight given terms of 20 years or less, on charges ranging from assassination and plotting against the state to theft and forming a criminal association.

All belonged to a group led by Mustafa Bouyali, a former member of the National Liberation Front (FLN) who formed an "army of the faithful" to force the government to introduce Islamic law. Bouyali was killed by government forces on January 3 1987.

As the new trial began, several hundred bearded supporters wearing white robes demonstrated outside Blida courthouse calling for the release of the 15, whom they described as "political prisoners".

Abdennour Ali Yahia, president of the Algerian Human Rights Defense League, assisted by several other lawyers, was attending the trial which is expected to last a week.

Trial Goes to Supreme Court

LD1510204989 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpt] A procedural battle hides a fundamental problem. The Bouyali affair, as it is called, could be a test case. On the 1st day of the new trial of the 15 accused, the affair has been referred to the Supreme Court. This referral occurs after the withdrawal of part of the defense, which considers the criminal court to be incompetent to deal with this affair. The [Blida] court thus deliberated and decided, we have just heard this, to refer the affair to the Supreme Court. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister Visits Moscow, Signs Protocol

LD1210050689 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Minister of Economy Ghazi Hedouci's visit to the Soviet Union was crowned in Moscow today by the signing of a protocol for economic cooperation and the minutes for the creation of a joint company for investments. The two documents were signed by Ghazi Hedouci, on the Algerian side; and Konstantin Katushev, USSR minister of foreign economic relations, on the Soviet side.

Mr Hedouci, in the Soviet Union since last Sunday, had talks with Mr Katushev and with the Soviet minister of finance; the talks dealt with topics aiming at bolstering bilateral economic relations.

FLN's Bouhara Interviewed on Socialism

LD1510115389 Algiers APS in English 1020 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Algiers, 15/10/89 (APS)—In the frame of the weekly program "Transparences" of Channel-III, the radio invited Wednesday Abderrezak Bouhara member of the Executive Secretariat of the National Liberation Front (FLN) Central Committee who spoke on the past, present, and future of the front and on some specific points such as socialism and information. The FLN, Bouhara said, worked as a party from independence (1962) to 1965. After this date, he recognized and for defendable considerations the state was priviledged in comparison to the party which has ended as a past of public service.

Asked about the way the FLN is following, Bouhara said the FLN is adapting to new situations with difficulties mainly because of habits. The changes did not happen because attacks came from the outside not from the inside. Concerning resistance to changes within the FLN, Bouhara said that militants are first of all human beings and in any behaviour there are subjective as well as objective factors.

In the same context, Bouhara added that socialism as it was thought of in the past does no longer mobilize the people. We have to find new themes; we have to rethink socialism, we need a democratic and modern socialism which opens prospects to the effective participation of citizens in the management of public matters.

Changes are taking place in socialist countries, he continued, but in Algeria we do not accept ready made solutions. We have our own experience, the struggle of our people.

Finally, the FLN representative answered a question on information. "Information, he said, is an extraordinary instrument, which is very important in the exercising of democracy. It is a question which is being debated at the national level and the FLN will also examine it. We must define a policy of information which really favors the effective exercise of democracy and the work of the journalist."

Social Democratic Party Congress Convenes

LD1210222589 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The Social Democratic Party [SDP] started organizing its ranks in preparation for political competition. About 1,050 delegates came to the Palais des Nations from the various regions of the homeland, in order to take part in the constituent congress of the SDP. They will be working under the slogan: "Freedom-Action-Progress," in order to enrich the draft party statute, and its program of action. Today's proceedings were followed by colleagues Jamai Nazzar and Abboud Maisi.

[Correspondent] At the beginning of the proceedings of the constituent congress of the SDP, and after listening to the national anthem and a minute of silent prayer for the martyrs, Abderra. man Ajrid made a speech, at the beginning of which he hailed the new era during which this congress is held, and which is considered, he said, as an important event in the political history of Algeria since independence. He tackled the purpose of the creation of the SDP, which is, he said, the proposal of a realistic method to solve the problems faced by the country, and a courageous treatment of the problems, which allows, in the first stage, the stabilization of the situation, and in the second stage, leads, he said, to the establishment of mechanisms which settle matters from a social point of view, and which revive national economy. He stressed that the SDP will not deviate from the fundamental constants of our Algerian society, which are: Islam, the Arabic language, and national unity, because they are, he said, sacred principles for us, without neglecting our deeply rooted cultural patrimony.

Regarding the ideology of the SDP, Abderrahman Ajrid said that his party considers Islam to be a reference framework, from which stems political practice. He considers, in this context, that secularism contradicts the constituent factors of the Algerian personality. He stresses that Islam is capable and qualified to face up to the challenges of the times. The SDP, its chairman stated, is in the middle between liberalism and socialism. It defends the presence and the consolidation of a nonparasitic private sector. It also defends the maintenance of a strong public sector in the vital economic fields. He calls for dialogue and consultation and stresses that his party is a party of positive opposition:

[Begin Ajrid recording] Indeed, I said that the SDP is a party of positive opposition. Our party, naturally, presents itself as an alternative to the present political authority. This is a political fact. However, it is, at the present time, in the positive opposition. This means that we will condemn all the political, or economic, or social actions carried out by the current authority, in case they are against national interests, and we will hail all the measures which we will consider in the national interest. [end recording]

Bitat Addresses 5 Oct Victims' Families

LD0610133489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Oct 89

[Text] The 1st anniversary of the painful events of 5 October passed in absolute silence. The atmosphere of confidence which prevailed in the streets and suburbs all over the country has shown that there is a collective understanding of the sensitivity of this stage and of the necessity to mobilize everyone for hastening the completion of the democratic course which is now a firm reality and a living fact.

The aspects of commemorating the anniversary included visiting the cemeteries as an expression of respect for the souls of the victims of 5 October, in addition to the appeals issued by various societies and organizations so that this date would be given a special attention and great consideration, and so that the families of the victims would enjoy full care.

The families of the 5 October Victim Society organized a rally yesterday in front of the National People's Assembly building. A delegation of the society was received by Speaker Rabih Bitat. In his reply to the society's demands he said:

[Bitat] It is true that the problem is there. Today is the first anniversary of 5 October, and the families are still suffering; we feel for them, but as a National People's Assembly we do not have the ability or the resources to respond to them. There is no doubt that there are things that have been achieved, as for the others, we could have a clear and urgent session with the authorities concerned so that all these problems are brought into their normal framework, and the status of those who died in that stage should be made clear. I promise you I will study this matter.

Journalists Movement Elects Interim Group

LD1510094389 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Excerpts] The work of the Algerian journalists movement ended last night at around 2330 after 2 days of meetings characterized by extensive, sometimes stormy, debates on issues concerning the profession of journalism and future organisation of the movement.

The election of an interim representative body to be entrusted with the task of taking responsibility at the transitional phase, until the convening of the movement's founding conference, was announced at the final session. During that phase, the representative body will

make preparations for the founding conference. The voting was done by secret ballot on the basis of a list of 38 candidates, among whom 15 journalists representing various media institutions were selected. [passage omitted]

The journalists symposium also issued a final statement after the first draft was rejected and many amendments were made to it. The approved statement focuses on the principles of the journalists' unity, freedom of expression, and professional practice and the citizen's right to complete, objective, and truthful media. The statement also draws the attention of the government and society to the despicable state of the media and communications sector due to lack of resources and the poor administration of media institutions.

New Political Organization Formed, Approved

LD1110103789 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] A new political organization has been set up, the Organization of Generations for Scientific Revolution. Shaykh Ahmed Sahnoun has approved its political program, which, according to APS, is an extention of the Dawa League. The organization will submit its application for legalization at the Interior Ministry at the end of this month, as reported by the evening newspaper AL-MASSA. Its program contains nine points: social reform in favor of the individual in order to build a strong and a solidarity home which, according to this organization, can be achieved only with the availability of employment and housing, control and looking after the children, and marriage at an early age. On the economic level, the new organization centers its program on self-sufficiency in industry, trade, and finance. Concerning politics, the organization thinks the state and religion should not be separated and efforts should be deployed to remove obstacles between Arab and Muslim countries. It also believes that liberation movements in the world should be supported.

Publication of New Economic Magazine Planned

LD1110094289 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Summary] A new economic magazine is to be published. It will be called "L'AUTRE BORD" and its editorial chief is (Ben Mokhtar). The magazine will come out every 2 months and will provide detailed economic information aimed particularly at emigres who have set up business. The ideas, editing, photo-typesetting, and the film processing will be put together in Algerian and the magazine will be printed in France.

Egypt

Mubarak Returns to Cairo From Libya Visit

NC1710214689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2124 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned to the homeland this evening after a brief visit to Libya that lasted for a few hours. During the visit, President Mubarak continued the talks he began with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at Marsa Matruh yesterday. The talks touched on various issues of common interest and ways to promote bilateral relations in all fields. [passage omitted]

Restrictions on Travel to Libya Eased

NC1610164589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1551 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 16 Oct (MENA)—It has been decided that from today Egyptian and Libyan citizens will be able to travel between the two countries with only an identity card.

President Husni Mubarak has issued immediate instructions to Interior Minister Zaki Badr to take the necessary measures to put this decision into effect.

Entry Visas Canceled

NC1710171289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr today gave instructions to the Passports, Immigration, and Nationality Department to start implementing the decision permitting Libyans to enter Egypt and Egyptians to travel to Libya using only their identity cards. This measure was agreed upon by leaders Husni Mubarak and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi during their talks in Marsa Matruh yesterday.

All Egyptian land, sea, and air points of entry have been instructed to allow Libyan nationals to enter the country without obtaining a visa in advance. Likewise, Egyptians are to be allowed to travel to Libya without an entry visa. Cairo Airport officers put these instructions into effect as of early this morning.

Libya Releases Two Egyptian Fishing Boats

JN1410221089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] AL-AHRAM has learned that, following contacts between Egypt and Libya, the Libyan authorities took immediate measures to release two Egyptian fishing boats that were seized by the Libyan authorities in August. The boats and their crews will be freed today.

Soviet Envoy Welcomes Egyptian-Libyan Summit

NC1710150889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Oct 89

[From "The World on the Air" program]

[Text] Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev has welcomed the Egyptian-Libyan summit meeting. He said his country welcomes the normalization of relations among all Arab countries, including Egypt and Libya. He noted that this summit meeting will have positive results not only for bilateral relations but also for the general situation in the region.

Mubarak, King Husayn, 'Arafat To Meet in Nov

JN1610125589 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 16 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] AKHBAR AL-YAWM has learned that a tripartite summit meeting comprising President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, and the Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will be held in November to continue the talks held in al-'Aqabah and Ismailia, and to ascertain the results of the contacts made by the three sides to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has told AKHBAR AL-YAWM that the U.S. secretary of state has become responsible for breaking the impasse created by Israel, and that the ball is still in the Israeli court. Kamal added that the United States is trying through its secretary of state to divert attention from what is happening in Panama by concentrating on the Middle East.

The question is: What is the U.S. stand on Rabin's initiative? The attempts made in some capitals to cast doubts on the Egyptian stand can be answered by saying that the Palestinian central leadership decided in its meeting in Tunisia recently that, Egypt under President Mubarak, is one of the main pillars supporting the armed Palestinian struggle in the march of just peace to restore the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Al-Asad Message to Mubarak on Prophet's Birthday

JN1710184389 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received a cable from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday congratulating him on the prophet's birthday. Al-Asad wished the Egyptian people prosperity and President Mubarak success.

Perez de Cuellar Receives 'Abd-al-Majid Message

NC1410091989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2309 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] The United Nations, 13 Oct (MENA)—UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has received a message from 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, dealing with the recent developments in Middle East peace efforts.

Ambassador 'Abd-al-Halim Badawi, Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations, delivered the message tonight during his meeting with the UN secretary general. Badawi said that he and Perez de Cuellar discussed the Western Sahara issue in light of the UN secretary general's statement calling for a political settlement to that problem.

Paper Notes 'Reservations' on U.S. Proposals

JN1610092589 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Oct 89 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that President Husni Mubarak recently decided not to hold a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Cairo to discuss peace prospects in the region and bilateral relations between Cairo and Tel Aviv.

Informed Egyptian political circles have affirmed that the political leadership does not intend to hold such a meeting because of Shamir's antipeace stands. The sources also affirmed that Egypt has shown reservations toward the proposal submitted by the the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, to hold a tripartite meeting comprising 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens; and Baker in Washington within 2 weeks. The sources pointed out Cairo's unwillingness to respond to the proposal due to Israel's intransigent stand.

The sources indicated that Egypt postponed an announcement on its position regarding the new U.S. proposals until it discusses them with the Palestinian leaderships. AL-WAFD has also learned that James Baker affirmed during his last contacts with 'Abd-al-Majid the determination of the U.S. Administration to exert pressure on Yitzhaq Shamir and the Likud leaders to force the Israeli Government to go back on its stand which rejects direct negotiation with a Palestinian delegation in Cairo.

U.S. 'Lack of Seriousness' on Palestinians Noted

NC1710132289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0613 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—The Egyptian newspaper AL-AKHBAR has called on the United States to act in accordance with its superpower status and uphold the highest possible standards in connection with the talks with the Palestinians.

In an editorial published today, the paper says that almost a year has passed since the first contact took place between the United States and the PLO in Tunis. It notes, however, that the talks between U.S. Ambassador Pelletreau and Palestinian Ambassador Hakam Bal'awi have disappointed many people because of their slow pace and infrequency.

The paper criticizes the lack of seriousness on the part of the United States toward the talks which began following a public invitation from Washington. It remarks that this lack of seriousness can be seen by the fact that the results of the talks have not been revealed nor have plans for the next step to follow the first round of talks, which is now nearly a year old, been announced.

Papers Comment on Continuing Peace Efforts

NC1410222989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2106 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has asserted that the most important result of the recent efforts to revive the Palestinian issue and promote a solution is the continued contacts being held in an attempt to resume action and bypass rejections by circumventing points of disagreement.

In an editorial in Sunday's edition, the paper notes that Shamir's election plan is still on the table, as is the Palestinian acceptance in principle of that plan. It adds that the Egyptian 10 points are still being put forward as a way to move ahead despite their rejection by the Israeli Cabinet. AL-AHRAM points out that these factors have produced new U.S. proposals designed to combine the positive aspects of Egypt's and Israel's positions in a framework through which a dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis can begin.

AL-AHRAM remarks that the important thing is to prevent matters from going off on tangents in a way that dilutes the basic points. It notes that one should not sail far from port in search of secure ways of returning to it, warning that this would dissipate efforts.

AL-AHRAM warns against surrendering to Israeli methods of handling the issue, which are designed to bury important matters under marginal topics to give it the opportunity to confront and crush the intifadah.

In an editorial in its Sunday edition, AL-JUMHURIYAH comments on the persistent Egyptian diplomatic efforts in the battle for peace and refers to Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd-al-Majid's meeting with the Palestinian delegation visiting Cairo. It says that they discussed the five U.S. points and assessed the situation in light of Israel's continuing intransigence and the Shamir government's refusal to embark on a dialogue with the Palestinians.

The paper says that the U.S. Administration is waiting for an Egyptian response in light of the results of the Egyptian-Palestinian consultations, noting that the PLO Central Council will hold a meeting in Baghdad to discuss the situation.

The paper adds that reports speak of a possible summit meeting among Mubarak, King Husayn, and 'Arafat next month in the context of the ongoing efforts on this issue.

The paper remarks that the voices defending Israel in the United States have recently begun to change their tune and to urge Israel to accept the reality that Egyptian diplomacy has sought to clarify: the need to exchange land for peace and to establish an independent Palestinian state if its goal is a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH urges patience, calm, quiet, and convincing dialogue, and concerted Arab action in all directions to attain a just solution to the principal Arab cause now that it has been placed on the right path.

Gulf Capitals Contacted To Pay Debts to U.S.

JN1410220289 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Oct 89 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Cairo have disclosed that the date fixed for repaying the first installment of Egypt's military debts to the United States is 1 November. The sources said that Egypt's inability to pay this installment—amounting to $300 million—will make it subject to U.S. legal action. U.S. law provides for depriving states that do not pay their debts to the United States of all forms of U.S. aid and loans.

Egypt is currently holding intensive contacts with several Arab capitals to obtain urgent loans in order to repay its military debts. The sources explained that Egypt refused the offer by some U.S. financial institutions and commercial banks to extend to Egypt an easy-term loan of $1.5 billion to use in repaying the installments of the outstanding debts.

Several Gulf states, however, have reneged on their intention to buy the Egyptian military debts, and reschedule them on easy terms and at a low interest rate. Diplomatic sources emphasized the impossibility of the U.S. Administration intervening to postpone the repayment of Egyptian debts.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak Hold Talks in Tubruq

Mubarak Arrives in Libya

LD1710134289 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir Air Base in al-Butnan municipality this morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

A grand official and popular welcoming ceremony was held for President Husni Mubarak, as the brother leader of the revolution was at the forefront of those who welcomed him. As President Husni Mubarak descended the steps of the aircraft, the brother leader of the revolution embraced him with the warmth of Arab fraternity. [passage omitted]

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is accompanied on this visit by a delegation composed of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majidi, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Mutawalli Sulayman, minister of transport and communications; Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing; Mahir Abaza, minister of electricity; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; Major General Zaki Badr, minister of interior; 'Isam Radi, minister of public works and water resources; Dr 'Usamah al-Baz, first undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Zakariyah Azmi, head of the Office of the President of the Republic. [passage omitted]

'Private Talks' Begin

NC1710114189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1122 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tubruq, 17 Oct (MENA)—The second round of talks between President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, opened at the al-Masirah Hotel in the Libyan town of Tubruq at noon today with private talks between the two leaders.

The first round of Libyan-Egyptian talks began yesterday in Marsa Matruh, the Egyptian town which is 200 km from the Libyan border.

Delegations Attend Talks

LD1710154289 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The Arab-Libyan-Egyptian talks started in the city of Tubruq this afternoon.

The talks were attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee, the brother secretaries of the General People's Committees for Economy and Foreign Trade, Maritime Resources, Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation, Justice, Planning, Light Industry, and Vocational Training, and the brother secretary of the People's Committee for Petroleum.

These talks were attended also by the brothers 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Major General Zaki Badr, minister of interior; Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communications; Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing; Mahir Abaza, minister of electricity; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; 'Isman Radi, minister of public works and water resources; and 'Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Luncheon, 'Expanded Session' Held

NC1710153489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1441 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tubruq, 17 Oct (MENA)—The two Arab leaders President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, resumed their talks at a luncheon which the Libyan leader gave at the al-Masirah Hotel in Tubruq this afternoon in honor of President Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him. Members of the Egyptian and Libyan delegations, a number of senior Libyan figures, and secretaries of the people's committees attended the luncheon.

The expanded session of talks between the Egyptian and Libyan delegations lasted for 3 and ½ hours.

Al-Sharif Comments on Talks

NC1710165289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1451 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tubruq, 17 Oct (MENA)—Following the expanded meeting this afternoon between President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the two leaders had wanted to hold an expanded meeting, attended by members of the Egyptian and Libyan delegations. He said the two leaders had announced that Egypt and Libya are opening a new chapter, in which they are taking concrete steps to promote cooperation between individuals, agencies, and institutions in both countries in such a way as to serve development goals and create prospects for cooperation in all fields. This will reflect on the performance of both countries, he said.

The information minister stated that President Mubarak and Col al-Qadhdhafi drew attention to various subjects and noted the following:

1. It has been decided to lift restrictions on travel between the two countries. The measure relating to the use of identity cards has come into force, as well as the following measures which will facilitate the movement of goods and increase the volume of trade between the two countries. The two leaders emphasized their respect for the two countries' security and laws and their concern for each other's security and stability which are necessary for the well-being of the two fraternal peoples;

2. Attention is to be paid to the labor issue, taking advantage of the Egyptian experience in all technical, scientific, specialized, and vocational fields, as well as in the areas of research, study, and training;

3. Joint cooperation will begin in agriculture, in accordance with scientific studies and joint research and through the exchange of visits, with a view to setting up joint agricultural projects and cooperating in studies for the utilization of water resources;

4. The electricity grids of the two countries are to be linked within the unified Arab and Islamic network;

5. Transport links are to be established between the two countries by developing railway and road transport and by cooperating in all areas of maritime transport;

6. Communications networks between the two countries are to be linked to increase the number of communication circuits in all fields between the two countries;

7. Cooperation in the contracting, building, and reconstruction areas is to be promoted. The information minister pointed out that discussions between the two delegations in this connection also dealt with the exchange of visits by ministers, senior officials, and experts to study ways of increasing cooperation in all fields with a view to serving development goals in both Egypt and Libya.

8. Goods are to be exchanged, trade boosted, and private sector companies and businessmen encouraged to set up joint ventures; and

9. Protocols and cooperation agreements are to be drawn up between the two countries in the areas discussed, the implementation of joint projects is to be planned, and studies by both countries in health and educational matters are to be utilized, through the exchange of visits by Egyptian ministers and Jamahiriyah people's committee secretaries.

Mubarak Comments on Talks

NC1710174489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tubruq, 17 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak told reporters here today that he and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have continued the discussion they started yest lay in Marsa Matruh on the various prospects for cooperation between the two countries. He added that there is no obstacle to promoting cooperation between Egypt and Libya.

Asked what effects the talks in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq will have on Arab solidarity, President Mubarak said there is no disagreement between Egypt and Libya about the Arab causes. If there were differences in the past, they were over method and style, but we do not disagree on the objectives of the Arab causes, he asserted.

President Mubarak said that pan-Arab issues were discussed in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq. There are no differences over these issues between us and Libya and the Arab world in general, he declared.

Asked if they had touched on African and international issues, President Mubarak stated: We discussed them in general.

President Mubarak was then asked about the Palestinian issue and whether there is anything new regarding Egyptian-Libyan cooperation and coordination in this respect. He said: We keep each other informed of current developments. Today we revi wed the subjects under discussion as well as the initiatives undertaken in connection with this issue.

President Mubarak added: Some Palestinian leaders assert that no one has the right to choose the members of the Palestinian delegation. We have repeatedly emphasized that Egypt does not consider it has a right to select members of the Palestinian delegation, and no one is insisting that the Israeli and Palestinian delegations should meet in Cairo. We do not mind where this meeting is held, be it the Soviet Union or Greece. All that we are interested in is that the two parties get together, even if they decide to meet on the moon. We have no problem regarding the place where the two delegations meet, he added.

President Mubarak went on to say that, concerning the composition of the Palestinian delegation, no one is saying that Egypt or any other country has the right to choose this delegation. There are certain Palestinian voices claiming that Egypt or some other country will choose the Palestinian delegation. Who said that we will choose the members of the Palestinian delegation? Right from the start, we never said we would choose them, so "enough of such claims," he added.

He noted that there is agreement between him and President Yasir 'Arafat on this particular point. He added: We constantly coordinate all the steps we embark on with him. We never raise any points on which the Palestinians disapprove, because we have no interest in doing such a thing.

Asked whether the Egyptian-Libyan summit may be regarded as an example of how to resolve Arab differences, President Mubarak asserted that these meetings have been excellent. He noted that there are many examples to follow in this respect, including yesterday's meeting. We hope we will always succeed in this regard, he said.

The president answered a question on the possibility of establishing cooperation between the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union. He said that Egypt is a member of the Arab Cooperation Council and Libya is a member of the Arab Maghreb Union and both represent a union. There is never any difference between the Arab unions, which work under the umbrella of the Arab League. The Arab League Charter, which needs to be amended, contains articles supporting and explaining this.

Asked how he feels about his visit to Libya, President Mubarak said: I feel very good. I am on Arab soil with Arab brothers, agreeing on points of difference that had existed. This has come about, as it always does, through persuasion, without the application of any pressure. Dialogue is the best means of persuasion. In this way each party can explain his position to the other. The ultimate goal is the same, whether for us, Libya, or the Arab nation as a whole.

President Mubarak was asked whether Egypt, Libya, and Sudan would represent a good political and economic link. He asserted: We are against axes and we are not advocates of the policy of axes.

He said: Our relations with Sudan are good and we hope that Sudan will resolve its problems in the South. Furthermore, our relations with Libya are good and our relations with all Arab and world countries are excellent.

On the effects which good relations between the two countries may have on the two peoples' interests, the president affirmed that good relations will reflect positively on both peoples. He stressed, however, that we should not rush things.

Responding to a question on whether a date for his next summit meeting with Col al-Qadhdhafi has been fixed, the president said: We do not fix dates in advance because we can contact each other by telephone and meet at any time.

The president was asked about his next step, particularly in view of the fact that his wise policy has succeeded in containing crises in the Arab arena, thawing the ice, and reconciling Egypt and Libya. The question laid special stress on the future of Egyptian-Syrian relations. The president emphasized that relations among Arabs must be strong and solid. He referred in this context to inter-European, Latin American, and inter-Asian relations.

The president pointed out that there are many Arab League agreements which are in the interests of the Arab nation. If these agreements are implemented, they will obtain a very prominent status for the Arabs among the countries of the world, he said.

The president asserted that there are no problems between Egypt and Syria. I know President Hafiz al-Asad very well, and I am on very good terms with many Syrians, he said, adding: The only thing I take against them is that they let George Habash [secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] abuse Egypt in Damascus. The president said: I do not know George Habash in person and I do not want to add anything more. However, I believe that this is improper.

Bilateral Meeting Held

NC1710192389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, held a bilateral meeting this afternoon, following the working lunch which Col al-Qadhdhafi hosted in honor of President Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him and honoring their expanded session of talks.

At the same time, members of the Egyptian delegation accompanying President Mubarak held bilateral meetings with their Libyan counterparts. The meetings worked to prepare an executive program and to set dates and venues for forthcoming meetings with a view to expediting the implementation of the measures agreed upon by leaders Mubarak and Al-Qadhdhafi.

Joint Communique Issued

LD1710211789 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] At the end of the Libyan Arab-Egyptian talks this evening, the following communique was issued:

According to the instructions of brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Egyptian and Libyan delegations met under the chairmanship of Dr Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and brother 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. There is an accompanying list of the names of both delegations.

The Egyptian and Libyan sides discussed the following issues:

1. The agreement on movement of individuals between the two countries with identity cards;

2. Linking the telecommunication networks, constructing a railway line between Al-Sallum and Tubruq as a first step toward linking the two countries by railway, activating and organizing navigation links between the two countries, and consolidating the existing road network in order to facilitate the movement of individuals and goods;

3. Linking the united electrical network between the two countries after concluding the necessary studies for this;

4. Encouraging trade, financial, and banking exchanges and the entry of national goods, and contracting the trade and financial agreements which regulate these matters;

5. Establishing a company for digging water wells and constructing dams; studying the existing irrigation networks in both countries; joint production of the two countries' needs for improved agricultural seeds, fruit strains, and fodder components; establishing a joint organization for studying and exploiting the water of the Nubian Desert subterranean reservoir; and establishing one or more agricultural settlements;

6. Expansion in the fields of vocational training and preparation required by the Jamahiriyah at specialist establishments in Egypt;

7. Work for the setting up of a joint company between the two states for oil exploration and production;

8. Work for the setting up of a joint company between the two states for marine fishing;

9. Establishing agricultural, industrial-agricultural concentrations in regions of the Great Jamahiriyah to be inhabited by Egyptian Arab families; [Cairo MENA in Arabic at 2120 GMT on 17 October also carries the

communique, but omits the previous clause from: ...9. Establishing agricultural industrial... to ...Egyptian Arab families;] the establishment of residential-agricultural concentrations in regions of the Great Jamahiriyah to be inhabited by Egyptian Arab families;

10. Facilitating the assistance of Egyptian technical experts in specialist fields in order to meet the needs of the Great Jamahiriyah;

11. Facilitating the treatment of Libyan citizens sent for treatment abroad at the expense of society at Egyptian hospitals and sanitoriums;

12. Facilitating the flow of radio and TV broadcasts between the two countries and linking the communications networks between them;

13. Coordination between specialists in the operation of imports from abroad with the aim of getting the best terms and the exchange of information and data which facilitate this operation;

14. Working for the achievement of industrial cooperation and complementarity between the two countries and the development of industrial technology in the two countries;

15. Working for the standardization of specifications in the two countries especially in the field of construction and cooperation between the two countries in the fields of civil construction and planning, especially ways to economize.

Both sides have agreed to intensify meetings and contacts between officials of the two countries in order to lay down the principles for implementing these directives on condition that the meetings will he held in the two countries alternately in the shortest time.

Written in Tubruq on Tuesday 17 October 1989
[Signed] Dr Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Brother 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee

Minutes of Meetings Signed

NC1710213489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tubruq, 17 Oct (MENA)—The minutes of the meetings of the Egyptian and Libyan delegations were signed in the Libyan city of Tubruq this evening. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, signed the communique on behalf of Egypt, and 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee (prime minister), signed for Libya.

The ceremony took place in one of the lounges of the al-Masirah Hotel, where President Mubarak stayed during his visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah. It was attended by members of the Egyptian and Libyan delegations to the talks.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sees Off Mubarak

LD1710202489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Tubruq, 17 Oct (JANA)—President Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the accompanying delegation left Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir Air Base in al-Batnan municipality at 1600 [1900 GMT] this evening after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

There was a great official departure ceremony, and brother leader was at the forefront of those who saw him off. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Sends Message

LD1710212689 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent a cable of thanks to the brother leader of the revolution on the conclusion of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. The following is the text:

I have the pleasure, as we are leaving the soil of fraternal Libya at the end of our visit, to convey to your excellency our thanks and appreciation for the authentic Arab welcome and hospitality accorded to myself and my accompanying delegation. I am sure that the good outcome of our talks, which were held in an atmosphere of friendship, brotherhood, and total frankness herald a new era of solidarity and continuous cooperation between the two fraternal countries to attain their common aspirations and to serve the interest of just Arab and Islamic causes.

Brother colonel, please accept my sincerest greetings and best wishes for more prosperity and progress and my best brotherly appreciations.

Egypt, Libya To Open 'Bureaus' in Tripoli, Cairo

NC1710211489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2108 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tubruq, 17 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have agreed to open a bureau for the Libyan Jamahiriyah in Cairo and a bureau for the Arab Republic of Egypt in Tripoli, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said today.

U.S., West 'Confused' by Pan-Arab Meetings

LD1710180189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1345 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Oct (JANA)—The pan-Arab visit which the brother leader of the revolution paid yesterday to the town of Marsa Matruh and his meeting with Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, confused the circles hostile to the Arab nation. This meeting, and the fraternal pan-Arab meeting which was repeated today in the city of Tubruq, made the U.S. State

Department spokeswoman and the media of a number of European states launch a rude attack against these meetings through the repetition of old fashioned Reaganite allegations and the repetition of some terms which have become obsolete and have become, before the world public opinion, illogical and unrealistic.

JANA's political affairs editor wrote about these U.S and Western stands, stressing the historical facts which rule the conflict between the imperialist crusader forces and the Arab nation. He said that the international imperialist plan compels the Arab nation not to lay the foundations which would enable it to build its future, particularly its civilizational project of achieving natural unity.

The editor pointed out that the brother leader of the revolution summarized relations between the imperialist forces and the Arab nation in his statement in Marsa Matruh yesterday. He said that the enemies do not like the fact that this nation plays a humanitarian and civilized role because they want to live on the expense of its division, the expense of its weakness, and the deterioration of its situation.

The editor added that according to the historic analysis of this relation, the game of the State Department and the media of the West has been exposed before world public opinion and before the Arab nation, which has reached a stage of political maturity. The Arab nation has learned the lessons of the past in a way which enables it to distinguish between its friends and enemies, and in a way which enables it to uncover the sly methods of these crusader circles.

JANA's political affairs editor affirmed that Zionist pressure on the Western media has confused the political stand of some Western states. It has made them stray erractically in their practices and their allegations against the Arab nation, particularly against the great Jamahiriyah, because the Zionist strategy aims at wrecking relations between the European peoples and the Arab nation without consideration for the European national interest.

JANA's political affairs editor pointed out that circles hostile to the Arab nation and which apply their veto to any Arab progress, do not like the Arab efforts directed toward unity. These circles see in this effort a break in the rings of the Zionist-imperialist, colonialist conspiracy, and this rocks the cohesion of their hostile strategy. Hence they revert to their exposed methods consecrated in traditional imperialism—divide and rule.

JANA's political affairs editor affirmed in conclusion of his commentary: The determination which characterizes our nation progresses its goals without glancing at these allegations and which sows doubts with regard to our potential and our pan-Arab affiliation.

As the brother leader of the revolution affirmed in his statement yesterday, we must now build the future and move toward the future, and the nations must understand the legitimate aspirations of the Arab nation.

Al-Humaydi Concludes Tour of Arab States

LD1710211889 Tripoli JANA in English 1659 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 17, JAMAHIRAYAH NEWS AGENCY—Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi last night concluded his working tour of unity to the Arab countries upon the instructions of the leader of the revolution so as to lay down a united Arab strategy to confront all imperialist and zionist challenges to which the Arab nation is being subjected.

During his national tour which lasted for 22 days, Major al-Khuwaylidi delivered nationalist letters from the leader of the revolution to:

Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president of the Republic of North Yemen;
Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the president of the Republic of South Yemen;
President Hassan Gouled, the president of the Republic of Djibouti;
President Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the Republic of Somalia;
Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, the emir of Qatar;
Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the emir of the State of Bahrain;
King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia;
President Hafiz al-Asad, the president of the Republic of Syria;
President Saddam Husayn, the president of the Republic of Iraq;
King Husayn of Jordan;
Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the emir of Kuwait;
Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan, the president of the United Arab Emirates;
Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id, the sultan of Oman;
General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolutionary Council.

The Arab presidents, kings, and amirs asserted to Major al-Khuwaylidi their total support for all items and proposals included in the nationalist letter of the leader of the revolution. They expressed their high appreciation for the stances of the leader of the revolution and his revolutionary and militant role towards national Arab issues and continuous instigation for the realisation of Arab unity. They affirmed pan-Arabist nature of the letter of the leader of the revolution and the comprehensiveness of its revolutionary proposals and their unionist strategy dimensions in all parts of the items which the letter contained.

They asserted the urgent need to lay down an Arab strategic working plan to execute the proposals of the leader of the revolution and stressed the importance of Arab common action, enhancement of Arab solidarity at the current phase the Arab nation is going through.

The Arab presidents, kings, and amirs lauded all the points raised by the leader of the revolution in his

historic speech to the nonaligned summit conference. They asserted that the leader of the revolution expressed the feelings of all Arabs towards the issues he raised in a daring and courageous manner and his analysis of the international political situation.

Mauritania

Justice Minister Cited on Dispute With Senegal

PM1310095689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Oct 89 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Mauritanian Justice Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Insist on African Mediation in Settling Dispute With Senegal"]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Gulf Bureau—In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Mauritanian Justice Minister Cheikh Mohamed Salem Ould Mohamed Lemine said that Mauritania insists on African mediation carried out by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to settle the dispute with Senegal and rejects the internationalization of the problem, which is "an African affair."

The Mauritanian minister, who conveyed a message to the United Arab Emirates president from Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, said that the crisis between Mauritania and Senegal was confined to the refugee problem and, contrary to Senegalese claims, there were no border problems.

He pointed out that Mauritania did not want a military confrontation with Senegal but was ready to defend itself in the event of an attack on its territory.

On mediations for settling the Mauritanian-Senegalese dispute, the Mauritanian justice minister said that the official mediation is the African mediation started by Mali President Moussa Traore and now resumed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in his capacity as Organization of African Unity chairman.

He added: We support President Mubarak's mediation and are optimistic about it, but it still is in the beginning stages. For our part, we have nothing to contribute to a solution to the problem because we did not cause it and we do not stand to benefit from its continuation. Also we did not plan it. That is why the solution to the problem lies in a change of position by Senegal. That was also President Traore's feeling when he was mediating.

Regarding Mauritania's minimum demands, Cheik Salem explained that Mauritania had no demands beyond those stemming from the operations mounted against the Mauritanians. These demands include repatriation of the 200,000 Mauritanians carrying Mauritanian passports who are still in Senegal.

He added that "this number does not inclue the Senegalese of Mauritanian origin because we refuse to interfere in Senegal's internal affairs and consider it an internal matter in which it would be wrong to interfere; but for humanitarian and historical reasons we would welcome that group."

The second demand we are making, he said, is payment of compensation to the Mauritanians who were expelled from Senegal and whose assets and property were plundered.

Asked if the Senegalese of Mauritanian origin were granted Mauritanian citizenship, the Mauritanian justice minister said that it had not happened and they are now stateless because they are legally Senegalese and some of them were government employees in Dakar and some were members of the ruling party's leadership there. All Mauritania did, he said, was grant them refuge on humanitarian grounds because they are of Mauritanian origin and are still stateless. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministers Discuss Border Dispute

NC1110083189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—Senegalese Foreign Minister Dr Ibrahima Fall and Mauritanian Foreign Minister Cheikh Sid Ahmed Ould Baba have expressed their willingness to get together to discuss ways to settle the border dispute between their two countries, but only if such a meeting is well prepared for and there is a suitable atmosphere to make it successful.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published on Wednesday, the two foreign ministers gave their countries' positions on their dispute and how they believe it could be settled.

The Senegalese foreign minister stressed that his country has deep confidence in the mediation of current OAU President Husni Mubarak and in the committee he is chairing to solve the dispute. He noted that right from the start his country has wanted the dispute to be solved in an African framework. He noted that his country expects the mediation committee to carry out its mission according to the principles specified in the OAU's report assigning it with the mission; that is, nonencroachment on the borders inherited from the colonial era, respect for the peoples and human rights, and nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries. [passage omitted]

For his part, the Mauritanian foreign minister called for the need for Senegal to halt the media campaigns against his country as an essential condition, but not a prerequisite, for creating an appropriate atmosphere for any potential talks between the two countries. He said the reports published in the Mauritanian press on the tragedies of the people returning from Senegal are natural reactions to the continuing campaigns against them in the Senegalese press.

He added that Mauritania believes a solution to the dispute can be reached through the compensation that Senegal has to pay to his country. They include direct

payment of approximately $200 million to Mauritanian citizens for items confiscated from them at the borders as well as compensation for losses incurred as a result of the looting of Mauritanian property and stores at the time of the events. The two sides will determine the amount to be paid during the talks, he added.

Regarding his country's position on Senegal's demand to raise the issue of the borders, the Mauritanian foreign minister said they believe that continuing to raise this issue will further complicate the issue. He said his country insists on the principle of respect of the borders outlined in the OAU charter. He said that Mauritania's borders with Senegal fall in the middle of the Senegal River and they have been so since independence in 1960. Senegal, he added, acknowledged this in the agreement governing the utilization of the river and in several other agreements.

Foreign Minister on Differences With Senegal

JN1310231689 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Oct 89 p 5

[By Hisham Fahim]

[Text] In an interview with AL-AHRAM correspondent, Mauritanian Foreign Minister Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba explained some of the elements of the Mauritanian position on the crisis between Mauritania and Senegal following President Mubarak's visit to both countries while carrying out the mediation he was entrusted with by the Organization of African Unity [OAU].

AL-AHRAM: Are there any Mauritanian preconditions for beginning talks with Senegal to achieve a solution to the conflict between the two countries? Are you ready to meet with the Senegalese foreign minister?

The Mauritanian foreign minister: We consider the halting of the Senegalese media campaign as a necessary condition for creating the proper atmosphere for any possible talks between the two sides. We are ready to meet with the Senegalese foreign minister. However, the proper atmosphere should first be created to make the talks fruitful.

AL-AHRAM: But, during our presence in Mauritania, we noticed that the Mauritanian newspaper CHAAB has continued to publish stories and accounts of the tragedies of those who have returned from Senegal. Could this be described as a Mauritanian media campaign against Senegal?

The Mauritanian foreign minister: The publication of such stories is considered a natural reaction to the continuation of the campaign against us in all the Senegalese papers.

AL-AHRAM: Mauritania considers the compensation issue important. How do you view a solution to this issue?

The Mauritanian foreign minister: A solution can be achieved in two ways:

First, the Senegalese authorities should pay all that they have taken from Mauritanian nationals at the border, which is estimated at $200 million. This is as direct compensation to the Mauritanians themselves.

Second, the Senegalese authorities should compensate for Mauritanian possessions and shops that were looted during the incidents. This can take place through talks between the two sides to estimate the losses.

AL-AHRAM: What about the Mauritanian position toward Senegal's proposal regarding the border issue?

The Mauritanian foreign minister: We believe that Senegal's insistence on this issue would further complicate the situation. Our position on the border issue is clear and is embodied in our abidance by the OAU's principle that stipulates the sanctity of borders and that all sides should refrain from undermining the borders inherited from the colonizers at the time of independence. Since independence in 1960 until now, it has been agreed that our borders begin at the middle of the river, and Senegal approved this through the agreement on the exploitation of the Senegal River and several other agreements. Mauritania believes that Senegal should not reopen the border issue so that we will not reopen it. In such a case, we have our historical regional demands, which are also based on past agreements with the colonizer.

Bahrain

Amir Meets With Nicaraguan President 17 Oct

JN1710162289 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Manama, Oct 17 (GNA)—The official discussions started here today between H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

Present were Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force Shaykh Hamad Ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Works, Power and Water Minister Majid Jawad al-Jishi, Assistant Interior Undersecretary for Immigration and Passports Affairs Shaykh 'Ali Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah and Director General of the Premier's Office Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa'.

On the Nicaraguan side. Foreign Minister Padre Miguel D'Escoto and Planning Minister Alejandro Martinez attended the discussions session.

GULF NEWS AGENCY learned that both sides exchanged views on issues of mutual interest, and the Nicaraguan president expressed his country's desire to promote and develop the relations between the two countries.

President Ortega briefed H.H. The amir on the developments of the situation in Central America, and also extended an invitation to H.H. the amir to visit Nicaragua.

GNA also learned that both sides discussed the Middle East crisis mainly the Palestinian problem and the situation in the Arabian Gulf and other international issues in general.

Kuwait

Nicaragua's President Ortega Arrives for Talks

Welcomed by Amir

LD1410084789 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0826 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Oct (KUNA)—Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega arrived here today at the head of an important delegation, including the ministers of foreign affairs and planning, on a visit to Kuwait. He was welcomed by the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, who will have official talks with him on bilateral relations and their development in various fields, as well as on issues of common concern.

Ortega arrived here from Doha following an official visit to Qatar where he held talks with the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani.

Talks Open With Amir

LD1510111589 Kuwait KUNA in English 0935 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 15 (KUNA)—The official Kuwaiti-Nicaraguan talks at Bayan Palace Sunday [15 October] tackled the Palestine cause and the Lebanese problem along with a number of Arab and international questions.

Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad Al Sabah said that the exchanges between H.H. the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega [word indistinct] issues of mutual concern.

The discussions, which progressed in an atmosphere of understanding and friendship, also covered bilateral relations in various fields and means of developing them.

D'Escoto Meets Al-'Usaymi

LD1610140489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1239 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 26 (KUNA)—State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi Monday met with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman.

An authoritative source at the Foreign Ministry told KUNA that talks during the meeting centered on ways of fostering bilateral relations between the two countries.

He added that they also reviewed Central American, Arab and international situations, particularly importance of supporting efforts targetting lasting peace between Iraq and Iran.

On the Palestinian cause, the source indicated that the Nicaraguan minister stressed his country's support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab lands and backing for the legitimate Palestinian rights.

Brockman, who is accompanying Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in his current visit to Kuwait, also expressed Nicaragua's support for convocation of the international conference for peace in the mideast with participation of the PLO.

The two sides also tackled the Non-Aligned Movement's [NAM] role in the light of the outcome of the 9th NAM summit held lately in Belgrade, the source concluded.

Ortega Departs 17 Oct

LD1710130989 Kuwait KUNA in English 0910 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 17 (KUNA)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and the accompanying delegation left Kuwait this morning at conclusion of a four-day state visit.

H.H. the amir topped the farewell party along with H.H. the crown prince and premier, head of the national

guards, minister of the amiri diwan affairs, ministers, senior state officials and dean of the diplomatic corps.

H.H. the amir and President Ortega exchanged cables of greetings at conclusion of the head of state's visit.

Oman

Cypriot Minister Brings Message to Sultan

JN1110170589 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id has received a written message from His Excellency Cypriot President George Vassiliou. The message was received by His Highness Fahd Ibn-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, when he received today at his office Andreas Gavrielides, Cypriot minister of agriculture and natural resources, currently visiting the country.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-'Abdallah Ibn-Zahir al-Hinai, minister of agriculture and fisheries; Alexandros Siambos, accredited non-resident Cypriot ambassador to the Sultanate; and [name indistinct], the Cypriot consul general in Muscat.

The minister conveyed the Cypriot president's good wishes and greetings to his majesty the leader of the country and his wise government. His Highness Fahd Al Sa'id asked the guest to convey His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id's greetings and sincere wishes to his excellency the Cypriot president and the government and friendly people of Cyprus.

The talks dealt with relations between the two friendly countries and a number of issues of mutual interest.

The Cypriot minister expressed his admiration over what he saw during his visit in the way of development and progress undergone by the Sultanate in all fields and his appreciation of the existing cooperation between the two countries.

He also had praise for the talks he held with Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Muhammad Ibn-'Abdallah Ibn-Zahir al-Hinai. He expressed his confidence over the future achievements of these talks in developing cooperation in the agriculture, fisheries, and irrigation fields, and in serving the mutual interests of the two countries.

PDRY

'Arafat Arrives for Anniversary Celebrations

Greeted by Al-'Attas

EA1310222189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, head of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Aden at noon today at the head of a delegation on a visit to our country to participate in our people's celebrations of the 26th anniversary of the 14 October glorious revolution and to hold talks with party and state officials on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena in particular, and the Arab and international arenas in general.

He was received by Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, a number of other members of the Political Bureau and the Presidium, ministers, and Brother Muhammad Abu Shanab, charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the state of Palestine in Aden.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat made a statement to ANA in which he said: I am happy to arrive in the southern part of Yemen to join my brother revolutionaries on this revolutionary anniversary that is dear to the heart of every Arab citizen and struggler. I bring the greetings of the people, children, women, and heroes of the uprising to the people, children, women, and revolutionaries of Yemen.

Brother President Yasir 'Arafat added: The distinct relationship that binds the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions is a thing that we are proud of at all levels and which is held deep in the hearts of every Palestinian struggler and in the hearts of every Yemeni struggler. He pointed out that no battle of the Palestinian people occurred without blood from Yemen flowing into it.

Addresses Anniversary Gathering

EA1410172089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Excerpts] A large gathering was held this evening in the Abdullah Ba Dhib Institute of Scientific Socialism on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the 14 October glorious revolution. It was attended by brothers in the party and state leadership and mass organizations, and members of a delegation from the northern part of the homeland, led by Brother Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the permanent committee. Also attending were brothers Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Organization of Communist Action in Lebanon, members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps accredited to Aden, and a large number of citizens.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, delivered a speech at the gathering at the beginning of which he congratulated the masses of our Yemeni people in the south and north of the homeland in the name of the Central Committee and its Political Bureau, the Presidium and the Council of Ministers, on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the 14 October glorious revolution, expressing sincere greetings to those who hastened

to the arena of struggle for freedom, dignity, and independence, driven by a high nationalist spirit and the love of good for the people. [passage omitted]

The militant brother, Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, delivered a speech at the start of the ceremony at the beginning of which he gave greetings from the Palestinian people and the heroes of the revolution of stones [Palestinian uprising] to the leadership of the party and state and the masses of the Yemeni people on this dear occasion. [passage omitted]

In his speech, the Palestinian president touched on the Israeli-American conspiracy being hatched today against the Palestinian people and their revolution under the so-called Shamir initiative, affirming that it is a Zionist-American conspiracy aimed at extinguishing and [word indistinct] the valiant Palestinian uprising and encircling the regional and international stands which give backing for the Palestinian peace initiative and support for an international conference for peace in the Middle East in order to achieve the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

In his speech, the Palestinian president dealt with the bloody massacres being perpetrated daily by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland, explaining that the results of that bestial suppression by the forces of occupation are: 943 martyrs, of whom 60 percent are under the age of 16; 48,000 wounded, 6,500 disabled because of poisonous gases and rubber and live bullets; 5,000 cases of spontaneous abortion; 63,000 to 64,000 detainees under physical and psychological torture and administrative confinement, in addition to the burning and demolition of houses and the looting of properties of Palestinian citizens, a curfew, and the eradication of thousands of dunum of productive trees.

He confirmed the Palestinian people's determination to continue their heroic struggle and their uprising against all the conspiracies and forms of suppression and annihilation to which they are subjected until the establishment of the Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

Meets With PDRY Leaders

EA1410213189 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1815 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the state of Palestine, this afternoon met brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party. During the meeting there was a discussion of the latest developments relating to the Palestinian cause in the international and Arab arenas and methods of supporting the sweeping Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories in face of all attempts and methods of Zionist oppression and terror. There was also a review of issues of concern to the Yemeni and Palestinian peoples and revolutions.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat also met brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, and discussed with him all the developments relating to the Palestinian cause, as well as the importance of a unified Arab stand on the challenges and events. They discussed methods of deepening the relations of struggle between the Palestinian and Yemeni peoples and between the PLO and the YSP. [passage omitted]

This afternoon brother President Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation left Democratic Yemen after a visit during which he shared with the leadership and people of Yemen their celebrations of the glorious 14 October revolution. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Further on Visit by Nicaraguan President

Ortega Terms Talks 'Fruitful'

JN1410171089 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Doha, Oct. 14 (GNA)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has described the talks he held with H.H. the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani during a four day official visit here as fruitful, saying his historical visit ushered a new phase of mutual cooperation and understanding between the two countries.

In an interview with Qatari AL-RAYAH' newspaper, published today, Ortega said the aim of his visit to Qatar, the first leg of a Gulf tour, was to build an understanding conducive to adopting clear positions on major issues, such as the Palestinian cause, the Namibian problem and Latin American causes.

The Nicaraguan leader said the people of Nicaragua followed up the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people and daily monitors on the television the inhuman Israeli practices against Palestinian children and women.

The Nicaraguan people had also followed up with concern the Iraq-Iran war which threatens to undermine world peace and security, the Nicaraguan president said.

Ortega underlined that Israel was the cause why the Middle East problem remained without a solution.

He said the world public opinion should be moved to understand the just cause of the Palestinian people and force Israel to abide by the international laws and unconditionally pull out from the occupied Arab territories.

The Nicaraguan president linked between the role of Israel in complicating the Middle East question and its role in escalating the crisis between his country's people and the contra mercenaries.

Israel continued over the past ten years to provide the (contra) rebels with weapons in an attempt to undermine the revolution of Nicaragua and to deplete the country's resources, Ortega said.

On the situation in his country Ortega said elections slated for February will prove the falsehood of allegations of forgery made by the contra rebels noting that invitations had been extended to the United Nations, the Central American states union and international observers to monitor the balloting.

Ortega Departs After 4-Day Visit

JN1410085989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Doha, 14 Oct (WAKH)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega left Doha this morning after a 4-day visit on the first leg of a regional tour. Ortega was seen off by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar; shaykhs; ministers; under secretaries; and ranking civilian and military officials.

During the visit, President Ortega held talks with his highness the amir on bilateral relations and the current international situation in general.

Saudi Arabia

Commentary on PLO Rejection of U.S. Proposals

LD1410222789 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] The PLO has rejected the five points put forward by the U.S. secretary of state as a compromise between the Egyptian and Israeli plans and as a basis for opening up a dialogue between the PLO and the Israeli enemy.

It would seem that the reports of peace are still confused in the ranks of the Israeli ememy. That is not by chance; it is deliberate confusion by the enemy, who was and still is, rejecting every serious attempt aimed at bringing about a just and permanent peace. In this respect comes the enemy prime minister's renewed rejection of dialogue with the PLO, and his insistence that any dialogue must be based on the Israeli demands, which reject the participation of any representative of the organization in the dialogue.

It is clear that the enemy, which has begun to sense the strangulation resulting from the pressures of the options so far put forward by the PLO as a basis of a just and permanent peace, is endeavoring to ease the stranglehold from around its neck by putting forward alternatives which carry no substance and which aim at wasting time.

From this premise, the rejection by the PLO of the five points put forward by the U.S. secretary of state is a rejection that can be justified in reality. This is because the U.S. points seem to be a draft of the Shamir plan with cosmetic changes. Suffice it to say that one of these points stipulates that any negotiations should take place on the basis of the Shamir proposals. A stipulation such as this is alone sufficient to justify the rejection by the PLO, which finds nothing encouraging in this draft.

From this outlook, the inflexibility with which Israel confronts every attempt at peace will stiffen. It is clear that the support which the enemy finds for its positions not only increases its inflexibility, but prompts it to escalate the strength of this rejection, and this reflects negatively on any serious attempt to bring about a just and permanent peace. It would seem that the enemy, which has regrettably been able to achieve what it wants in obstructing and freezing all efforts aimed at peace, will continue on the path of rejection as long as it is immune from any pressure which might impel it to address the reality of things and [word indistinct] with reality.

CSSR Premier Signs Accord, Departs for Cairo

JN1710150289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—CSSR Premier Ladislav Adamec and his delegation left Baghdad today for Cairo at the end of an official 4-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and Revolution Command Council member, received Adamec before his departure today. They discussed bilateral relations and means of promoting them. [passage omitted]

Earlier today, Iraq and the CSSR signed an agreement on mutual recognition of school certificates and documents related to academic degrees and titles between scientific institutions in the two countries. The agreement stipulates that the two countries recognize the certificates granted by Iraqi and CSSR universities in the humanities and sciences.

Sabri Radif, under secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, signed the agreement for Iraq; and the deputy foreign minister signed it for the CSSR.

Joint Communique Issued

JN1710205689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Oct 89

["Text" of joint communique on the official visit of CSSR Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec to Iraq; date not given]

[Text] In response to the invitation by Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, CSSR Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec paid an official and friendly visit to Iraq between 14 and 17 October 1989.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received Mr Ladislav Adamec, who conveyed to his excellency the greetings of Milos Jakes, secretary general of the CSSR Communist Party, and those of CSSR President Gustav Husak. Adamec also conveyed their best wishes for President Saddam Husayn's personal happiness and that the friendly Iraqi people may develop and prosper.

President Saddam Husayn asked that his greetings be conveyed to Milos Jakes, the secretary general of the CSSR Communist Party, and to President Gustav Husak. He also conveyed to them his good wishes for health and happiness and for the friendly CSSR people's development and prosperity.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and Iraqi first deputy prime minister, and CSSR Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec held official talks in an atmosphere of mutual friendship and honesty. Each side informed the other of the events in its country and the tasks that fall within their responsibility in the current stage.

Reviewing bilateral relations, the two sides pointed out with satisfaction that relations between Iraq and the CSSR are developing successfully. The two sides reaffirmed the importance of the CSSR-Iraqi political dialogue. They indicated their mutual desire to continue developing bilateral cooperation in various fields in the interests of the two friendly nations and for peace and security in the world.

The two sides assessed positively the existing level of economic cooperation between the two countries. They stated their readiness to expand this cooperation in the future and to concentrate on finding new and effective methods to develop it.

In evaluating the scientific and technical cooperation and the educational relations between them, they described them as good and successful. They signed an agreement of mutual recognition of educational degrees, documents dealing with levels of education, and scientific titles conferred in both countries.

In their evaluation of the international situation, Taha Yasin Ramadan and Ladislav Adamec pointed out that international relations are now experiencing a positive atmosphere in which the danger of nuclear war has receded and that a new willingness has arisen to settle regional disputes politically.

They affirmed that the center of gravity of international life has moved from confrontation to dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation. The two sides also expressed their support for establishing the policy of detente; guaranteeing peace in the world; stopping the arms race, halting nuclear weapons tests, and preventing their spread into space; eliminating weapons of mass destruction; and lowering the levels of conventional weapons. The two sides confirmed that the continued improvement in international relations can only be maintained on the basis of commitment to the principles set forth in the United Nations Charter and by international norms; and by respect for the sovereignty and territories of all countries, non-interference in their internal affairs, and by solving disputes by peaceful means.

The two sides affirmed the need to establish a comprehensive, just, honorable, and permanent peace between Iraq and Iran based on Security Council Resolution 598. Iraq informed the CSSR of the latest developments in direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran after the cease-fire and Iraq's efforts to implement all the articles of Resolution 598 according to the sequence of its paragraphs.

The Iraqi side stressed the principle of free navigation in territorial waters, the Arabian Gulf, and through the Strait of Hormuz for all ships without hindrance. It also stressed the need to clear the Shatt al-'Arab waterway and make it safe and suitable for navigation without encroachment upon the waterway's legal status as Iraq's only outlet to the high seas. The Iraqi side explained the legal and humanitarian dimensions of President Saddam

Husayn's initiative on Iraq's readiness for an immediate and comprehensive exchange of POW's between the two countries.

The CSSR side paid tribute to Iraq's positive stances on international initiatives and its efforts to resolve the conflict with Iran peacefully.

The Iraqi side informed the CSSR side of the goals of the Arab Cooperation Council, which enhances economic cooperation among its member states with a view to achieving economic integration, and which welcomes any Arab country wishing to join it.

The CSSR side welcomed any step that boosted Arab cooperation.

In the context of their revision of the Middle East situation, the two sides expressed their solidarity with the Palestinian people, under the PLO, against the continuing Israeli occupation. They stressed that a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict can only be achieved on the basis of implementing the UN resolutions. Such a settlement must include a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian peoples' inalienable right to self-determination through the convening of a UN-sponsored international conference to be attended by all parties, including the PLO and the Security Council permanent member states.

They also expressed their appreciation of and support for the intifadah of the Palestinian Arab people and condemned the acts of oppression perpetrated by the Israeli ocupation forces. The two sides praised the resolutions of the 19th extraordinary session of the Palestine National Council in Algiers and the proclamation of the state of Palestine.

The two sides expressed their belief that the situation in Lebanon cannot be settled except through peaceful means and on the basis of national reconciliation and political dialogue among the parties to the conflict. The unity and sovereignty of Lebanon and the safety of its territories must also be maintained. They expressed their support for the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions on the Lebanese crisis. They also condemed the acts of aggression perpetrated by Israel in southern Lebanon—acts that further complicate things in this country.

The CSSR side informed the Iraqi side of the current situation in Europe, which was positively affected by the successful implementation of the final document of the Helsinki conference on security and cooperation in Europe, and also by the outcome of the Vienna disarmament talks. This proves that adequate circumstances are emerging in Europe for peaceful development and for building the common European house on the basis of equal security and promotion of cooperation in all fields among all nations. The CSSR is contributing to these efforts through its initiative to form a bridge of trust, cooperation, and neighborliness between the Warsaw Pact and NATO countries, and also through its initiative to solve environmental problems in central Europe. The CSSR is also exerting efforts to crush all negative trends that appear in Europe as a result of the cold war and the policy of power and revenge.

The Iraqi side pays tribute to the efforts exerted by the CSSR to achieve stability and peace in Europe. The two sides expressed the belief that the official and cordial visit paid to the Republic of Iraq by CSSR Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec will help promote the relations of fruitful friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the future. Mr Ladislav Adamec expressed his deep gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded him and his delegation in Iraq. He also extended an invitation to Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister in the Repulic of Iraq, to pay an official visit to the CSSR. The invitation was accepted with satisfaction, and its date will be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

Mojahedin Radio Cited on Ahmed Khomeyni 'Warning'

JN1410160489 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 14, INA—The Iranian opposition organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq said that Ahmed Khomeyni has warned his opponents, and in the forefront Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Radio Mojahedin-e Khalq, organ of the organization, said in a broadcast monitored here today that Ahmed Khomeyni's warning came in the wake of several changes that led to removing a number of his followers from key state positions.

The radio said that removal of Hoseyn Mozaffer, director of education in Tehran, was part of other measures adopted by Rafsanjani's education minister covering the dismissal, earlier, of two minister's assistants, four advisors and six directors general.

Quoting reliable information, the radio said dismissal of Khomeyni's aides caused soaring of concealed political conflict in Iran.

The organization predicted heated confrontation at the Iranian Shura Council between Ahmed Khomeyni aides and those opposing Rafsanjani's policy on the one hand and Rafsanjani and his followers inside the council on the other hand.

Shamir To Reject Baker Plan in Present Form

TA1710110089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Oct 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by Menahem Shalev in Jerusalem and Wolf Blitzer in Washington]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will reject Secretary of State Baker's formulas for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue if these are submitted for a decision in their present form, well-placed sources said last night.

At the same time, Shamir appears to be seeking ways to renew the dialogue with Labour—especially Defence Minister Rabin—and has asked for a meeting of the "forum of four" this week to discuss the peace process. The meeting has tentatively been scheduled to take place tomorrow.

Shamir views Baker's proposals as yet another formula which would involve Israel in indirect negotiations with the PLO, the sources said, and he would not hesitate to vote against them if they are brought to a vote in the inner cabinet.

Officials in Jerusalem said yesterday that, in any case, the administration will not press for a response to its proposals before Shamir's mid-November trip to Washington.

The officials added that the PLO's flat rejection of Baker's offer yesterday may make Shamir's life easier. As a consequence of the organization's decision in Baghdad, the officials said, Egypt will be unable to accept Baker's formulations either, and perhaps this will induce the administration not to press for an Israeli reaction. [passage omitted]

The prime minister may propose to Labour that Israel renew its efforts to find Palestinian interlocutors directly, without the assistance of the U.S. or Egypt, sources in Jerusalem said last night. Shamir, apparently, still harbours hopes that he can revive his political alliance with Rabin, Likud sources said last night.

But Labour sources said that Peres and Rabin would jointly deflect an offer that Jerusalem resume its informal contacts with Palestinians in the territories. "That avenue is no longer relevant," one source said. [passage omitted]

Shamir Warns of 'Period of Tension' With U.S.

TA1710164289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] We do not want a confrontation with the United States; however, on the other hand, we will not give in to it, the prime minister today told members of his Knesset faction. Yitzhaq Shamir warned that Israel might be entering a period of tension with the United States. Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports:

The main problem currently is relations with the United States, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in a meeting with his faction. Our problem with the Americans is not new, but one that arises from time to time. Tensions have grown over the old feud, which has been going on since 1967: the removal of Israel from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

That was how Shamir defined relations between Jerusalem and Washington. There is no doubt that the Americans want to lead us to a meeting with the PLO right away, and it is clear that in such a meeting the only issue would be a Palestinian state. It is difficult to say what the U.S. position would be, Shamir told his faction. If they give in as they have previously, relations would continue at their current levels. If they do not yield, then something would change.

We should understand the possibility that we are entering a period of tension with the United States. We are not looking to cause it, Shamir said. Quite the contrary, we do not want a confrontation with the United States; however, on the other hand, we will not give in to it. The differences with Washington are not new. The situation is difficult, and it is a miracle that we have so far managed to stand firm against the entire political world. I do not see any element willing to support our position.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 17 October quotes Shamir as telling the meeting that "in the past we had disputes with the United States, but we stood firm. We did not give up Eretz Yisra'el, but nevertheless managed to keep the friendship with Washington—and even to promote it."]

On the Bush administration, the Likud leader explained to his colleagues: We knew the previous administrations, but we do not know this one. It is difficult to analyze what will happen.

Shamir does not believe there is a need to disband the government. We do not need to initiate anything on our own or tell anybody to leave it. The present government should be maintained as long as possible, Shamir said. We should take steps so that the Alignment does not manage to set up a narrow-based government. If they see that the Likud is strong and firm, there is a chance to prevent the establishment of a narrow-based government, which is a bad thing. It is very difficult to sit in the same government with the Alignment when there is not even a minimum amount of trust in them. He rejected Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau's proposal to ban Shim'on Peres from going to Moscow. Preventing Peres and Rabin from going abroad means the breakup of the government, Shamir said. There are norms to be upheld; we cannot sit in the same government with them and not permit them to travel abroad, but we can make things difficult for them.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens blamed Shim'on Peres for the worsening relations with the United States. Without Peres' running to the United States, we would

not have had trouble with Shultz at the time. The only braces minister at the meeting was David Levi, who did not participate in the exchange.

Shamir Telephones Bush; Call Termed 'Friendly'

TA1810083789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir initiated a telephone call to President Bush last night. The two discussed ties between Israel and the United States and agreed that contacts toward promoting the peace initiative would continue. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that there was no mention in the telephone conversation of the prime minister's remarks before the Likud faction yesterday about possible tension with the U.S. Administration against the backdrop of Secretary of State Baker's five points.

The prime minister's media adviser has said that the telephone conversation between Prime Minister Shamir and President Bush was friendly and that there is no tension between the two countries.

Shamir Discusses Positions on PLO, Baker Plan

TA1810090089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Oct 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by David Landau]

[Text] The PLO executive's rejection of U.S. proposals for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue should "strengthen the Israeli government's resolve to pursue its own peace initiative, which is designed as an alternative to the PLO," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared yesterday.

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, the premier said his message was not that the PLO executive's resolutions in Baghdad this week had buried the American and Egyptian efforts. "I don't say it that way. I put it positively: the PLO resolutions energize our efforts to seek peace through our peace initiative."

He wanted to stress, he said, that he did not oppose American and Egyptian involvement as such. "I welcome efforts intended to help us reach peace. But that does not oblige us to accept any and every piece of advice, even though it may come from our best friends... When we decline to accept a specific American or Egyptian suggestion, that does not mean that we reject their involvement.

"The extremist resolutions of the PLO executive didn't surprise me," Shamir continued, "After all, I follow developments closely... Sometimes certain parties abroad seek to persuade these (Palestinian) groups to camouflage their true thoughts and purposes. But in the face of these latest resolutions I say that the government of Israel must now continue with even greater determination to make efforts towards implementing our initiative."

(The PLO executive rejected Secretary of State James Baker's proposals on convening a dialogue, and insisted that any Palestinian delegation must be selected and approved by the PLO.)

The premier said: "I am more convinced than ever that the course we have charted in our initiative is... the only practical way of resolving the Israeli-Arab conflict by peaceful means.

"This isn't an easy course, nor a short one. It is strewn with obstacles. But we must pursue it. We must find negotiating partners from among the Arabs—both in the Arab states and in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza—who will embark on the process of negotiations that we have mapped out.

"Our peace initiative is, for the Arabs, an alternative to the PLO—not an adjunct to the PLO.

"It is no accident that in our initiative we spell out our opposition to a Palestinian state and immediately thereafter express our determination not to negotiate with the PLO. These are two interlocked elements: because we oppose a Palestinian state in Eretz Yisra'el, we cannot negotiate with the PLO.

"At the same time, we want to reach a peaceful settlement of the conflict with the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, and thus we have to find people whom we are prepared to talk to, since we are not prepared to talk to the PLO. That is why I say the initiative is an alternative to the PLO.

"Those who thought—there are Europeans and some Americans who think so—that our initiative would require us to sit and talk with the PLO were simply mistaken. They do not understand us. This is very profound and very serious. We want a peaceful solution. We want it both with the Arab states and with the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza; but we cannot achieve it through talks with the PLO, because the PLO opposes it. The PLO wants a Palestinian state, and they do not want a Jewish state, even though they proclaim otherwise....

"When we ask outside parties to help us implement our initiative, we ask them, too, to remember the 'no' in our initiative, which prevents us from negotiating with the PLO.

"We are accused of intransigence regarding the recent proposals that have been submitted. But these accusations stem simply from a misunderstanding. Our initiative does not require us to talk to the PLO. Just the reverse.

"Granted, today the PLO's influence is dominant both among the populace of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza and among the Arab states. But in our view, that situation will not prevail for long. The populace will come to understand, from the bitter experience of the intifada violence, that this struggle will lead nowhere and that everything that the PLO stands for will produce only disasters. They will eventually grow disappointed both

with the intifada and with the PLO, and then conclude that they must negotiate with us on the basis of our initiative. I hope that will not take long."

The premier said he would dearly like the U.S. to use its influence, and channel its desire to help, in the direction of persuading the Arab states "to change the nature of their relations with us. That could have a massive impact on all of us here in Eretz Yisra'el, both Jews and Arabs. We would see that the Arabs truly want peace. It would build confidence."

Many Palestinians with whom Shamir had met had strongly supported the basic idea of a two-phase solution, with a confidence-building interim autonomy period to precede negotiations on the permanent status of the territories. "But the PLO doesn't want that. (Members of the organization) and others say and suspect that we would call a halt after the first phase. But that is not right; we never said so. On the contrary, we are committed to the second phase, we are committed to Camp David."

Editorial Says Intransigence Brings 'Disaster'

TA1710154089 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 16 Oct 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Shamir's 'No' and the Lessons From History"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's latest anti-peace crack is that he refuses to talk not only with the PLO, but also with those he calls its "representatives," whether from the occupied territories or outside. What Shamir is clearly saying is that he is not ready to talk peace with any Palestinian because it is elementary knowledge that the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people everywhere have chosen the PLO as their representative.

Yet Shamir is willing to negotiate with Egypt or Jordan on the Palestinian question. But if Egypt's Husni Mubarak or Jordan's King Husayn also say they will negotiate with Shamir on behalf of the PLO, in order to break the deadlock, will Shamir refuse to talk to them too?

Shamir and his Likud party are saying exactly what they think, though they do not admit it openly; the Likud is not ready to peacefully settle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict under any circumstances. When Shamir proposed his elections plan, he made it very ambiguous and open-ended. He was not thinking of a peace initiative, but rather of how to ward off the international pressure put on him by Palestinian peace overtures. And it worked, at least temporarily, not because Shamir was able to outsmart the entire world, but because the world decided to give him a chance to test his intentions.

Now that Shamir's intentions have been tested, a firm international stand on Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be expected. There is no time left for appeasement. The United States, the party along with Egypt most embarrassed by Israeli intransigence, will be counted on to look at matters realistically and objectively and act accordingly—that is, if it wants to spare this region another devastating war.

This region is currently reliving its memories of the October 1973 war. Before Egypt and Syria launched their coordinated attack on Israel, the latter was rejecting every peace proposal put forth, even by the United States. Egypt and Syria chose the war option after all other avenues to force an end to Israel's occupation of their territories had failed. The war worked, but only after a heavy human price was paid. Israel gave up the entire Sinai and parts of the Golan, territories it could have relinquished earlier without causing unnecessary tragedy to families on both sides of the front. The same result could have been achieved if Israel had accepted negotiations, and many families would still have their children alive and well.

Are the lessons of the 1973 war going to teach anything to Israeli leaders? We certainly hope so. No one wants to go to war and no one is happy about the no-peace no-war situation, except maybe the Likud and its hardline supporters.

There exists a great chance for peace, never present before. Every government in the world is saying this, except the Likud. Maybe Israel should admit for once that it is wrong, and agree to share this world before things get out of hand and life gets worse for everybody. Israeli government intransigence is inflaming hostilities rather than contributing to coexistence. This can bring only disaster to the region.

Peres Hospitalized With Urinary Tract Infection

TA1710150089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, after having become ill, was hospitalized this afternoon at Ha'emeq Hospital in 'Afula to undergo tests. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that Minister Peres had been visiting several Arab villages in the Galilee. He became ill while touring the village of Bu'aynah, and members of his entourage decided to take him to the hospital. Peres is currently in the emergency ward, and the hospital's senior staff is treating him. It has been learned from senior personnel at Ha'emeq Hospital that Peres is suffering from a urinary tract infection, but is in generally good condition.

Rabin on MiG Report, Jordanian Aid to PLO

TA1710151489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The defense minister accepts the conclusions of the investigation into the penetration of the Syrian MiG into Israel. Answering a question by our correspondent Arye Gus, Minister Rabin said he was sure that the

recommendations on what should be done to prevent the recurrence of such incidents would be implemented. He said that were he in the Syrian defense minister's shoes, he would be very worried. Mr Rabin refused to say whether the United States asked Israel for information on the MiG.

The defense minister visited the Allenby Bridge and toured the patrol road along the Jordan River today. He said that Jordan had taken steps to prevent infiltrations into Israel, but he pointed out that it has been accommodating the PLO in its territory. In Jordan, therefore, the PLO has had freedom of action in contacts with inhabitants of the territories, and perhaps also aids terrorists wishing to infiltrate our territory. He believes Jordan should look for ways to restrict PLO activity in its territory.

Continued Investment in Air Defenses Endorsed

TA1710124589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Oct 89 p 1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] The major lesson to be learned from the Syrian MiG-23 penetration into Israeli territory is that there cannot be a hermetic closure of Israel's airspace. The above is true in times of calm and even in wartime. No air force, the Israeli Air Force included, can have pretences of achieving this goal. Furthermore, this is not one of the tasks the Air Force is ordered to perform.

The serious and detailed report submitted yesterday to the chief of staff is, in fact, saying just that. One of the key phrases of the report states: The MiG-23 incident "belongs to a small group of occurrences to which the Air Force has no reply in times of calm."

The impression from the remarks made by the chief of staff on television last night is that had it been an infiltration attempt by a formation of aircraft or a large force, its coming through would have been almost impossible. This promise could raise expectations too much. One must bear in mind that a technical malfunction could occur even in new and highly sophisticated systems; and even if all systems function properly, there still is the possibility of a bad judgment or decision. There could be misunderstanding, slow response, and other mishaps. The MiG-23 penetration is proof of that. That is why, even in wartime when alert is high and there are more fighter planes and radar-bearing aircraft in the air, errors of judgment are still possible.

Furthermore, even if there had been no error of judgment during the MiG-23 penetration, and fighter planes had been launched to intercept it, it would still be possible that the plane would have reached Megiddo. Had it been a hostile plane, it would probably would have been shot down only on its way out.

Despite all the limitations, one should not conclude that investments in air defense should be cut back. The large investments have proven themselves despite the mishap that took place at the Syrian MiG-23 affair.

Rabin Defends Tax Crackdown in Bayt Sahur

TA1810060389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Defense Minister Rabin has defended the crackdown on the tax revolt in Bayt Sahur, saying the security forces are acting within the framework of the law. Rabin toured the town, located near Bethlehem, yesterday:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] There is an attempt by Bayt Sahur, which is a unique attempt vis-a-vis the territories or to those who reside in the territories, to violate the law by not being ready to pay taxes. Everyone everywhere pays taxes. Therefore, we have to cope with them as people who have violated the law, especially when they try to give to this violation of the law political significance by press conferences in Jerusalem, by calling representatives of the EEC, by trying to build around it slogans that are familiar in the United States—"no taxation without representation," which we, after all, accept the principle. This is why we are offering elections in the territories, so that there will be elected representation. Therefore, we have to use whatever it is allowed by the law to impose the law.

[Reporter Shlomo Berger] Now people there are saying, though, that about $1 million's worth of merchandise and goods have been taken, which is far more than what people actually owe.

[Rabin] It's up to them. Once they'll pay their taxes in the proper way, there will be no need for confiscation in accordance to the law. [end recording]

UK Consul Defends Action of Touring Bayt Sahur

TA1710115889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Oct 89 p 2

[Report by David Horovitz]

[Text] Britain's consul-general in Jerusalem, who last week angered Israeli officials by urging the investigation of the killing by troops of a Palestinian student in Nabulus and by entering two West Bank towns that were under curfew, yesterday insisted that it is vital to his work that he travel widely in the territories and said he strives for objectivity in reporting what he sees there.

Interviewed by THE JERUSALEM POST in his office at the East Jerusalem Consulate, Ivan Cullen, consul-general for the past two-and-a-half years, sought to play down the controversy that surrounded his visits last week to Nabulus and Bayt Sahur.

Declining to comment directly on those visits, he declared nonetheless that "an important part of my work is to send (back to the U.K.) accurate and objective reports on events in the occupied territories."

He was always "acting in British interests," he stressed, and was bound on occasion to "draw attention to areas of concern in an admittedly difficult situation."

While Britain hopes Israel will let Cullen's activities pass without further comment, Yosi 'Amihud, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, reiterated yesterday that his department would "relate to the subject, in all its possible implications," as soon as full details were received.

There is no disputing the fact that Cullen, in his armoured Landrover, entered Nabulus and Bayt Sahur last week while both towns were under curfew, but it is understood that on neither occasion was he asked to turn back. Days before, he had been in a party of foreign diplomats prevented from entering Bayt Sahur by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] roadblock at the southern city limits of Jerusalem.

As for his demand that last week's shooting in Nabulus of Palestinian student Nidal al-Habash be fully investigated, it is understood that Cullen heard eyewitness testimony indicating that, contrary to IDF statements, the killing occurred after Al-Habash had surrendered to troops. While Cullen himself cannot be sure of what happened, he believes a proper investigation is necessary.

With British Foreign Office ministers David Mellor and William Waldegrave having infuriated the Israeli government with their comments on policies in the territories in recent years, Britain believes that the Israeli authorities are now ultrasensitive to the activities of its officials here. Britain insists, however, that conditions in the territories are not an internal Israeli affair, and its diplomats here will continue to fulfil their duties in the area accordingly.

Escalation in Unrest Expected in Territories

TA1710153589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Oct 89 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Text] The defense establishment expects activities in the territories to escalate in the next 2 months, and to center in particular on general strikes and demonstrations to mark numerous anniversaries registered in the annals of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In addition to the ordinary historic dates, such as the annual protest on 29 November to mark the UN resolution on Israel's partition, this year the territories will mark the first anniversary of the declaration of a Palestinian state in Algiers on 14 November, the second anniversary of the beginning of the intifadah on 9 December, and other dates.

Unlike the past 2 years, during which reservists bore the brunt of service in the territories, this year many regular army units will be sent to the territories to quell the intifadah. The decision to send regular army soldiers to serve in the territories stems from the urgent need of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] reserve units to resume regular training. IDF officers point out that training at training schools and command courses will not be affected this year as a result of service in the territories.

As for next year, the IDF plans to go back to full training of regular troops and is currently revising the amount of training undergone by reserve troops in relation to the service required of them in the territories. In any event, at the moment there are no plans to increase required annual reserve service, which currently stands at 44 days for soldiers and 50 for officers.

New Housing Units Constructed in Territories

TA1710160989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Oct 89 p 6

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Tzvi Zerahya]

[Text] The Housing and Construction Ministry recently started building 75 housing units in three settlements in the territories: 25 in Talmon near Ramallah, 25 in Zoref in Gush 'Ezyon, and 25 in the settlement of Kefar Darom, which was inaugurated yesterday in the Gaza Strip.

The Housing and Construction Ministry has just finished building 300 new housing units in the ultra-Orthodox settlement of Betar, west of Gush 'Ezyon, and work will soon begin to build another 200 units.

Commenting on this report, ministry officials said that the building of new housing units in the territories is compatible with the ministry's original plan which appears in its draft 1989 budget. Senior Likud members said last night that the establishment of Kefar Darom is compatible with the coalition agreement on the establishment of eight new settlements in the territories.

The Likud had been complaining that the Treasury was holding up the transfer of tens of millions of shekels to the settlements, as agreed by the Alignment and the Likud a few months ago. A few weeks ago the Treasury asked the Knesset Finance Committee to approve the transfer of just 10 million out of the 30 million shekels that had been agreed by the two parties.

Addressing the Knesset plenum last week in response to a motion by Knesset Member Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party, Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin promised that the remainder would be released soon.

Homes of 'Terrorist Cell' Members Destroyed

TA1810054589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Excerpts] The security forces have destroyed two homes and sealed another in Qalqilyah. The homes belong to

three members of a terrorist cell. The three were apparently active in shock committees that enforce uprising directives.

Stones were again thrown last night at cars traveling on the main highway between Tel Aviv and Haifa near the village of Jisr al-Zarqa. A private car had its front windshield shattered, but no one was hurt. That was the third stone-throwing incident of the day at that spot.

In one instance, a bus carrying children was hit with rocks. Police searched the area last night and detained 11 residents of the village. Four of the suspects were released after questioning. [passage omitted]

In another incident near Shu'fat in north Jerusalem, the No. 25 bus was stoned. An 8-year-old was injured when splinters of glass lodged near his eye.

Media Monitor Disturbances in East Jerusalem

Riot Erupts Near Herod's Gate

TA1610074489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Some 100 students from the al-Rashidiyah school in East Jerusalem rioted this morning near Herod's Gate. They stoned policemen and blocked streets. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that policemen and border policemen dispersed the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets. Several rioters were wounded and several dozen others were detained. Our correspondent reports that the police are considering filing a request to close the school because of the recurring student riots.

Our correspondent has just reported that there has been another riot near the al-Rashidiyah school. The father of one of the students wanted to enter the school to check whether his son was arrested, but when he was not permitted to do so he began to run amok and heat up the atmosphere. The youths began to stone the policemen, wounding one of them, and a large police force used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the rioters.

Riots Prompt School Closing

TA1610122489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Qasim Abdallah Labda, an 8-year-old boy from Khan Yunus, died this morning in Tel Hashomer Hospital. He was wounded on 13 October, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating the circumstances of his injury.

Serious disturbances took place in East Jerusalem. In student demonstrations at the al-Rashidiyah school, five policemen and several demonstrators were injured. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 16 October reports that "the police commissioner announced that al-Rashidiyah school in East Jerusalem would be closed until riots originating at the school stopped."]

Students also rioted at the school in the Abu-Tor neighborhood, and the Temple Mount Faithful Movement held a procession in East Jerusalem. Here is the report by our correspondent Yaron Toren:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] Several dozen members of the Temple Mount Faithful Movement and their supporters conducted a procession, in which they laid the cornerstone for the third temple, in the village of Silwan in East Jerusalem. The colorful procession proceeded without incident and, except for a few amazed glances, the Arab residents ignored it.

Riots also took place at the school in the Abu-Tor neighborhood in East Jerusalem this morning. Students threw stones at cars and police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse them. [passage omitted]

A special meeting was held this morning in Police Commissioner David Kraus' office to discuss the recent spate of arson and violence in Jerusalem. The meeting was attended by police officers from the Jerusalem and Southern Districts. The police commissioner ordered an increase of police forces in Jerusalem, with the stress being on reinforcing the ranks of those working undercover. To this end, detective teams from throughout Israel will be deployed in Jerusalem within a few days. These forces will be joined by special teams from the Border Police antiterror unit.

During the meeting, the commissioner pointed out that a massive deployment of police forces would be insufficient without the cooperation of the Jerusalem public. He called on residents to increase their alertness, volunteer for the Civil Guard, and even organize watch patrols in parking lots and around their homes.

The police officers also discussed the issue of the masked men who have recently increased their activity in the eastern part of the city, as well as the problems faced in dealing with them inside Jerusalem.

Commissioner Kraus refused to authorize any changes in policy regarding the punishment of offenders, thus rejecting requests by district commanders who asked for permission to seal houses. On the other hand, Kraus ordered professional operations to apprehend the rioters. [end recording]

Police Send in Reinforcements

TA1710080689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The unrest in Jerusalem continues. This morning, in accordance with the police commissioner's decision, police reinforcements started flowing into the capital.

About 1 hour ago, stones were thrown at a residence in Mei'r Naqar Street in Jerusalem's East Talpiyyot neighborhood. Several window panes were shattered, but there were no casualties. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum has learned that the stone throwers were

apparently from the adjacent Jabal al-Mukabar neighborhood. Intense searches are now being conducted in the area.

A truck belonging to an Arab resident of Abu-Tor was set on fire while parked near the driver's home last night; the vehicle was damaged.

An Arab resident of the al-Tur neighborhood on the Mount of Olives was stabbed several times in the chest and now is in critical condition. The man, about 60 years old, is being treated at al-Maqasid Hospital; he is unconscious. He was apparently suspected of aiding the authorities.

A group of settlers from Samaria's Dolev settlement blocked the road to the village of Baytuniya for 1 and ½ hours this morning, causing traffic jams that prevented Arab workers from reaching their jobs inside the Green Line on time. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] personnel arrived on the scene. After talking with a senior officer in command of the area, the settlers evacuated the road. After showing the commander several locations from which stones have been recently thrown at Israeli vehicles, they left the place.

Students Detained, Questioned

TA1710121289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpts] The Jerusalem municipality has closed another Arab school in the eastern sector of the city after a rock-throwing incident. This morning, pupils at the al-Sawahrah school in the Jabal al-Mukabar neighborhood threw stones at an apartment block in the neighboring Jewish quarter of east Talpiyyot, smashing a number of windows. Six pupils were detained for questioning.

Yesterday, the municipality closed the al-Rashidiyah Arab school near the Old City following a violent protest by pupils. [passage omitted]

In Bethlehem, a soldier was slightly injured this morning when he was hit by a stone while on routine patrol. He and other soldiers with him opened fire on the stone throwers. One was wounded and another arrested.

In Gaza, a group of masked men last night knifed a local resident and abandoned him in a field on the outskirts of the city. He was later taken to hospital, and his wounds are reported to be light. Local residents say he was suspected of helping Israel.

2 Jabalyah Men Sentenced for Attack on Auto

TA1310121289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Oct 89 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The military court in Gaza sentenced two residents of the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip to 25 months in prison, each with an additional 25-month suspended sentence. They were convicted of leading a group of local residents that attacked an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] vehicle disguised as a local car.

According to the charge sheet submitted by Lieutenant David Shevi, the military prosecutor, the two defendants, Da'ud Dawalli and Mahmud Abu-Zar, set out on 5 September together with 20 other masked men armed with clubs and axes toward the center of the Jabalyah refugee camp. They intended to beat workers setting out for work in Israel, thus defying the orders of the Unified National Command of the Uprising.

The group surrounded a vehicle that supposedly contained local workers and began smashing the car. To their surprise, four armed men got out of the car and announced that they were soldiers. The troops immediately arrested the two leaders of the group. It became clear that the soldiers had been traveling in a local car to track violent activists or rioters.

In addition to the prison terms, the judges also fined each of the defendants 2,500 shekels.

Soldier Sentenced for Bani Na'im Arabs' Death

TA1510171289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] The Central Command's military court has sentenced reserve soldier Ilan 'Orev to 2 years in prison after finding him guilty of negligence and causing two deaths while chasing stone throwers in the village of Bani Na'im approximately 5 months ago. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that during the chase, Ilan 'Orev shot at two escaping stone throwers, killing them. Earlier, his company commander had forbidden opening fire.

ICRC Workers Threatened if Hariri Not Released

NC1710165289 Paris AFP in English 1642 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Oct 17 (AFP)—An official from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Tuesday said the organization was powerless to secure the release of a convicted Lebanese hijacker currently held by Swiss authorities.

His statement came a day after an anonymous telephone caller claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad group told a Western news agency in Cyprus that two Red Cross workers kidnapped October 6 in southern Lebanon would be killed if Muhammad Hariri were not released from a Swiss prison "in three days."

No group has claimed responsibility for the abductions of Emmanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, both Swiss nationals.

In the past, Islamic Jihad, which is holding two Americans hostage in Lebanon, has warned that only claims accompanied by a photograph of one the captives should be considered authentic.

The head of the ICRC delegation in southern Lebanon, Roland Sidler, meanwhile told reporters here that the organization was "independent of the Swiss Government" and was unable to pressure it into releasing Mr Hariri.

Mr Hariri, a Shiite Moslem from southern Lebanon, was convicted in Geneva February 1988 and sentenced to life in prison for the hijacking of an Air Afrique plane and the killing of a French passenger in July 1987. Mr Sidler met Tuesday with military and political leaders in Sidon where Mr Christen and Mr Erriquez, who worked as orthopedic technicans, were abducted near a Palestinian refugee camp.

The Beirut chapter of the ICRC said in a statement Tuesday that 81 patients needing artificial limbs had gone untreated after the kidnappings, as the medical center where the two men worked in Sidon was forced to close.

"Eighty-one patients were on the waiting list at the centre on October 6 (the day of the kidnapping) and the number of handicapped people in need of treatment increases every day," the statement said.

The Palestine Liberation Organization, which controls the refugee camps in the Sidon area, has implicitly accused a radical Palestinian faction, the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) headed by Abu-Nidal, of the kidnappings. But the FRC has denied the charge.

Further Comment, Contacts on Al-Ta'if Meeting

Hamadah, Fayyad Contact Deputies

NC1510112089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Marwan Hamadah [former Druze minister] and Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad, deputy Progressive Socialist Party leader, contacted Deputies Farid Jubran, Tawfiq 'Assaf, Zahir al-Khatif, and Nazih al-Bizri in al-Ta'if this morning and stressed the need to adhere to the demands of the National Front regarding a date and a timetable for eliminating political sectarianism and regarding the number of deputies and the Army issue.

Information Office Statement

NC1610112389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Statement issued by the Council of Ministers Information Office in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] Information media hostile to the Lebanese cause have misinterpreted and distorted Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn's stand on the al-Ta'if meetings, claiming that it is directed against the Lebanese deputies and seeks to cast doubt on their patriotism. It is therefore necessary to emphasize that Gen 'Awn's stand is intended to provide the necessary support to enable the deputies taking the Lebanese position in al-Ta'if to withstand the great pressure being exerted on them by more than one foreign party.

It should be clear to everyone that the deputies' responsibility to remain firm over the issue of national sovereignty is linked to that of the head of state. No one can waver or make concessions on this issue. Gen 'Awn's support is not limited to any faction among the deputies, but is especially directed at the deputies from the occupied areas. Gen 'Awn seeks to prevent the occupiers from pressuring, blackmailing, or intimidating the deputies into backing down from their demand for the withdrawal of the occupying army.

The call for the Lebanese people to be ready to thwart any attempt to impose a solution is the least that can be asked from our people, who are discussing their future and fate while certain parties are trying to peddle various kinds of plots. Lebanon resorted to the Arab Leauge to seek help from its brothers in regaining its sovereignty, not in bargaining or negotiating over it. Any imbalance in the Lebanese situation resulting from foreign interference will have explosive consequences throughout the entire Middle East region, which will affect several countries that still believe they are not in any danger.

'Awn Comments on Talks

NC1810083089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said that the United States could have exerted political and

psychological pressure on Syria had it wanted to help Lebanon retain its independence and sovereignty. In an interview with the Paris-based Radio l'Orient, 'Awn said that the al-Ta'if meetings should not result in the relinquishment of sovereignty or in submission to interminable occupation by the Syrians.

'Awn added: We will go to international forums to press our right to sovereignty. The meetings in al-Ta'if, he said, indicate that the Lebanese are capable of reaching an agreement, whereas the Syrians refuse to withdraw.

Junblatt Makes Statement

NC1310140289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] In a statement to AFP, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt said that the demand to establish a senate is a justified and rightful demand. He criticized the points of the Arab committee's document in their entirety, noting that they do not deal with important issues.

In a telephone conversation he conducted from Amman with L'ORIENT LE JOUR's correspondent in al-Ta'if, he stated that the important issues to which he is referring are the rehabilitation of the Army and abolishing the privileges of political Maronism. He urged the al-Ta'if meeting to specify the Army's role and size and discuss the principle of the army's neutrality in internal disputes.

Birri Calls Talks 'Scandal'

NC1710170489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has described what is going on in al-Ta'if as a scandal. In a press statement today, he said that the game has been exposed, and what is taking place in and through Saudi Arabia is a maneuver designed to secure acceptance of the provisions of the Arab document. In order to project the task as a difficult one, the current process of give and take is taking place. But this trick will not deceive the Lebanese people. As long as it does not tackle the roots of the present system, this agreement will be added to the file of partial agreements that have been concluded since the constitutional document was drafted in 1976.

Minister Birri said that the national forces have a unified strategy of no submission to the al-Ta'if scandal. No one believes, however, that this strategy is based on causing the security situation to explode. Birri maintained that if political Maronism were given a choice between the abolition of the present system and the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from all Lebanon within 5 days, it would choose to keep the Syrian Army in Lebanon rather than have the system changed.

Editorial Views Meeting

NC1710170189 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 6 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "The Attainment of Lebanese Reconciliation Does Not Signal the Start of a Solution, for the Influential Forces in the Lebanese Scene Have Not Yet Spoken"]

[Excerpts] As the parliamentary debate got under way in al-Ta'if, the tripartite committee began addressing the political part of its task. The committee had issued a 7-point initiative linking security and political matters. It had also prepared a national reconciliation document to serve as a basis for political dialogue. The document has been amended in both the "establishment of sovereignty" and "bilateral ties" clauses in order to resolve the differences between the "tripartite" and Syrian perspectives on these two issues. In this document, the tripartite committee has basically adopted the Syrian view on these two issues, thus abandoning views which it expressed in earlier reports and which caused some dispute. [passage omitted]

However, attaining parliamentary reconciliation, which is a definite possibility in view of the immense pressures being exercised in al-Ta'if, does not automatically mean the beginning or implementation of a solution, for the influential forces in Lebanese politics have not yet had their final say. The outcome of the al-Ta'if talks will not define the final shape, date, or implications of the solution. Many agreements were signed in the past but never implemented. Such documents have merely become historical documents, basically because some of the powerful parties in the country have rejected them.

Therefore, there is a need to look beyond the al-Ta'if meeting and attempt to see the possible implications of the current phase in view of the positions of the principal players on the Lebanesse scene. It is clear that the deputies do not reflect the positions of the local forces. It is also clear, if we look at the kind of sponsorship under which the meeting is held, that not all the influential non-Lebanese forces are present or represented in al-Ta'if. So far, the function of the parliamentary meeting seems confined to preparing some "merchandise" for purposes of bargaining and deal-making among Lebanese and non-Lebanese forces.

Specifically, the al-Ta'if meeting seems to be another attempt by the United States to reclaim, albeit in an indirect way, its lost influence in Lebanon, following the developments which took place in that country after 23 September 1988. The end of Amin al-Jumayyil's term without a new president's election marked a setback for U.S. influence in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

As for the prospects that the "tripartite committee" will succeed in resolving the Lebanese crisis or, to be more specific, the aspect of this crisis concerning the "presidential vacuum," such a success is concomitant on whether the influential parties—Syria, the nationalist

and Islamic forces, and Michel 'Awn—would approve of holding the elections once the participants in al-Ta'if approve the reconciliation document.

Concerning 'Awn, his position on the outcome of the al-Ta'if talks is based on two factors: the first is the general Maronite situation. The Maronites do not want the document to compromise the "privileged" status of the Maronite community in Lebanon. The current document slightly curbs these privileges, for it transfers part of the executive power from the president to the Cabinet and abolishes some other presidential powers. Therefore, Maronites tend to reject the "document" and "to stand fast" for a few months against the pressures until the map of alliances and balance of power undergoes some changes.

'Awn prefers this policy. His position is also affected by a personal factor; namely, his desire to become president and his wish to force Syria to withdraw. Both goals are impossible, for Syria rejects 'Awn and would not accept less than a president who is close to its views and who would introduce political reforms. This means that 'Awn's position on the al-Ta'if outcome is likely to be negative.

As for the nationalist and Islamic forces, their position depends on several considerations. One of these is the extent to which their reform programs for the Lebanese regime are met. So far, there is no sign that such programs will be met, not even their minimum points. However, the final equation is yet to take shape, and it is possible (from a practical point of view) to accept what has been achieved and to move from that point into a new stage of struggle.

A second consideration for the nationalist and Islamic forces is the Syrian position, which we will discuss later.

The third consideration, which has recently become evident, is the Iranian position which is dictated by several considerations, chief of which is the need for the Muslims to play a major role in Lebanese decisionmaking, a role commensurate with the size of their political and demographic power. This would mean placing a certain emphasis on Lebanon's Islamic character and rejecting that country's submission to the arrogant West. Such a role would also imply resisting the schemes of the world arrogance and the reactionaries and their designs which aim at curbing the influence of revolutionary forces. The tripartite committee's plan is a mere byproduct of such designs.

The Syrian position on Lebanon is also effective and influential, in view of the interplay between geography and politics and with due consideration to the interaction of this role with the role of other forces in the scene.

Syria defines its position by two factors: The first is how to make Lebanese decisionmaking concordant with Syrian policies concerning the struggle with Israel and in view of the battle which aims to curb Syria's position in the struggle as a prelude to diminishing its role in the settlement. [passage omitted] Syrian calculations are also affected by how favorably it views the current balance of power in Lebanon and the region and how it views the prospects of changes in this balance of power. [passage omitted]

Maronite League President Comments

NC1810083789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Consultations on the al-Ta'if meetings continue in Lebanon. Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn met yesterday with a Lebanese Front delegation that included Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja', Phalangist Party deputy leader Munir al-Haj, National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un, and Maronite League President Shakir Abu-Sulayman. It was the second such meeting in 24 hours.

Commenting after the meeting, Sham'un said: We are firm on sovereignty because there can be no bargaining over this. He noted that there is a clear position on what is happening in al-Ta'if.

National Front Demands Arab Document Approval

NC1810151089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] The Lebanese National Front has asserted that sovereignty is the national demand of all Lebanese and that it should not be a subject for one-upmanship that seeks to show that only some Lebanese, and not all of them, insist on it.

In a statement distributed by Deputy Zahir al-Khatib today, the front added that the concept of sovereignty and the need to insist on it must not be the subject of one-upmanship from any party. Sovereignty is a national rather than a sectarian matter, which concerns all the Lebanese, the statement said.

The front's statement demanded that the Arab document be approved at once, without any amendment. It called also for an end to any discussion of the Syrian role in Lebanon, which should be examined jointly by the national conciliation government in Lebanon and the Syrian Government later.

'Awn Says U.S. Interests Conflict With Rights

NC1710154889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has told German television: The United States has interests which conflict with our rights, and we are defending these rights. He added: Since the power of rights is stronger than that of interests, the Americans will soon change their policies.

Birri, Junblatt Leave for Damascus for Talks

NC1510163089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt will hold talks with Syrian officials in Damascus today. The talks will focus on the latest developments in the al-Ta'if talks. Birri and Junblatt left for the Syrian capital today.

Postpone Visit to Damacus

NC1610100789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri held a 3-hour meeting at the home of former Minister Marwan Hamadah. They reviewed the results of the al-Ta'if meetings and discussed future courses of action in light of the meeting's prospects for success or failure . The meeting was also attended by Hamadah, Council of the South Governor Muhammad Baydun, PSP Secretary General Sharif Fayyad, and PSP Political Bureau member Akram Shuhayyib. Deputies Tawfiq 'Assaf and Zahir al-Khatib, who are in al-Ta'if, were contacted during the meeting. Junblatt and Birri stressed the need to adhere to the national front's demands. It has been learned that Junblatt and Birri, who have postponed their visit to Damascus until later this week, have agreed on the measures the national front will take if the opportunity to carry out reforms is not seized or if General 'Awn again tries to exacerbate the military situation in an effort to preclude an agreement.

Junblatt Says Civil Administration To Remain

NC1410135889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt today stressed the need to unify and fortify the areas held by the national forces and to reinforce the civil administration. [passage omitted]

Junblatt was making a speech at the people's palace in Bayt al-Din to an academic seminar entitled The Civil Administration, Its Standing and Tasks. Junblatt said: We have repeatedly emphasized the slogan that the civil administration was established to survive and will survive no matter what peaceful or war-like circumstances surround the Lebanese crisis. We may be at the threshold of a solution, truce, or war, but we must take all eventualities into consideration. We maintain and hope that the civil administration will expand and extend to all national areas from the south to the north in order to remove all political, religious, and territorial barriers. [passage omitted]

Junblatt added: Let the civil administration be a model for all areas and for the new Lebanese administration to demonstrate how the people interact with the authorities and how the people hold the power to run their own affairs. Let the civil administration be the model for administrative decentralization. I specify administrative, not developmental, decentralization because developmental or security decentralization means partition, he said. [passage omitted]

U.S. Cancels Training Course for Officers

NC1510065589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] AFP reports that the United States has canceled a training course for al-Yarzah army command officers. The agency said that 3 weeks ago Gabi 'Akar, the political counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon, informed the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah of this measure, 24 hours before four officers were scheduled to leave for the United States for a training course.

Hizballah Paper Interviews Shaykh Sha'ban

NC1710174789 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 6 Oct 89 pp 6, 7

["Text" of interview with Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, by an unidentified correspondent in Tehran—date not given]

[Excerpt] Correspondent: Your Eminence Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, what is the object of your visit to Iran?

[Sha'ban] We have come to Tehran to resume what we started, or rather what the Syrian and Iranian brothers started, with the National and Islamic Movement when 40 days had passed since the death of Imam Khomeyni and to resume what was discussed in Damascus at the beginning of this month. We came to Tehran, and we expected to see here all those who had met in Damascus. But we were surprised to find out that some of the brothers stayed behind. We discussed Lebanese and Palestinian affairs and the plots which are being concocted against Lebanon and Palestine to end the struggle of the oppressed.

[Correspondent] What is your stand on the new Arab move concerning Lebanon?

[Sha'ban] The Arab tripartite committee reached a dead end when it realized that the Lebanese issue cannot be resolved if there are no concessions. Syria, which has spent 14 years in Lebanon, wants payment for the effort it exerted in Lebanon. The Arabs believe that the best way to get rid of the Lebanese people, who are oppressed by political Maronism, is to appease Syria in order for it to break its alliance with the Islamic and nationalist forces and with the Islamic Republic. Therefore, the Arabs changed the phraseology of their first report which censured Syria on the basis that it was the one obstructing the work of the tripartite committee. They amended their previous report and enhanced the Syrian role in order to convince Syria that the Arabs and the regimes which seek conciliation with Israel can alone respond to all Syria's demands provided that it agrees to leave Lebanon, even by installments. The tripartite Arab committee would have thus paved the way for restoring

Maronism, which is about to take its last breath, to its place and position. The Arabs also did this in 1976 when they brought the Arab forces to Lebanon to save political Maronism, which was about to expire. The Arabs are always ready to serve Zionism and Maronism. They are ready to sacrifice their honor, Palestine, the Palestinian people, Lebanon, and its oppresed people in order to safeguard the Zionist entity and the Maronite state. The Syrian brothers must realize that the call to them to break their connection with the Islamic republic comes when political Maronism is establishing links with the European states, crusader states, and with the Vatican and when it is instigating all the world's forces against the Muslims. Syria's disengagement from Iran while claiming that the Lebanese issue is an internal one and that Iran has no connection with it is a Zionist-Maronite and an Arab lie because Lebanon's issues are not resolved in Lebanon but in the United States, France, Israel, and the Vatican. We as Muslims consider all those who ally themselves with us, be they Palestinians, Iranians, Arabs, or foreigners to have the right to interfere in order to support us. Israel brings Jews from all the world and receives immigrants from the Soviet Union, United States, Arab and African countries, such as the Falasha and others in order to support its cause. The issue of Israel is not a Palestinian issue. It is an Israeli and world Jewry issue. Our issue is an Islamic world issue. The Maronites issue is also a world Maronism issue. Therefore, we ask Syria to strengthen its links with the Islamic revolution because this is the only guarantee to safeguard Syria and to prevent it from being swept by the international politics as Palestine was swept. Israel will not stop before it reaches the Euphrates River now that the Camp David treaty has enabled it to reach the Nile. I tell the Syrian brothers: Do not believe the lie of the Arab states, which pant after peace with Israel and which prompt 'Arafat to conclude peace with it now that he has abandoned the armed struggle. Let Syria be very alert because the plots of those who wear the Arab head gear are primarily directed against Syria because it stood on the side of Iran in the Gulf war, whereas it was its duty to stand on the side of Anwar al-Sadat in order to conclude peace with Israel. [passage omitted]

Israelis Deport Hasbayya Platoon Commander

NC1710115689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The Israeli occupation authorities have deported Rafiq Zuwayhid, a Hasbayya platoon commander and captain in the interior forces. According to security sources, Zuwayhid was arrested by Israeli intelligence at Hasbayya platoon headquarters a few days ago and interrogated by an Israeli officer at Marj 'Uyun prison on his refusal to order the internal security forces to coordinate the substitution of license plates issued in the occupied border strip for Lebanese plates on civilian cars. Capt Zuwayhid persisted in his refusal to order this measure, saying that he acts under the command in Beirut and had received no notification of a change in his instructions.

Al-Khatib Briefs Army Commanders on Developments

NC1710071589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Acting Army Commander Major General Sami al-Khatib has declared that the Army will no longer be neutral on the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that it will spearhead the national plan. He stressed that the era of fear and hesitation is over, saying: Implementation of the coming solution will depend on us and on what we achieve on the patriotic and national levels.

Al-Khatib met yesterday at the Army Command's headquarters in Beirut with a number of district, brigade, sector, and unit commanders. He briefed them on political and military developments.

Hizballah Issues Statement on Temple Incidents

NC1810154889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0830 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] In a statement issued today, Hizballah denounced Jewish attempts to lay the cornerstone of the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. Hizballah declared that the Jewish attempts, as demonstrated in Jerusalem yesterday, are aimed at implementing the Jewish scheme to destroy the al-Aqsa Mosque. These attempts, Hizballah added, are nothing more than blatant acts of aggression against the Islamic holy places, revealing the enemy's intransigence and challenges to Islam.

In its statement, Hizballah said all Muslims are urged to realize this danger and unite ranks to check the Jewish onslaught. All Muslims must express their anger and make the entire world listen to their condemnation and denunciation. The statement called on all the higher authorities in Islam to draw up plans to thwart the Jewish attempts to demolish the al-Aqsa Mosque.

Hizballah went on to say that Islam is the primary target of the Zionist aggression because it represents the firm guarantee for the survival of the real character of the usurped land and the incentive for the continuing intifadah. Consequently, the world Islamic leaders must marshal the effective potentials of Muslims, as demonstrated in an exemplary manner in the Salman Rushdie case, when under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, may he be favored by God, the strength and unity of Muslims was displayed and a solid stand was formed which curbed one of the grotesque images of the cultural aggression against Islam and the Muslims.

In its statement, Hizballah urged a recurrence of this historic stand so that the Muslims may adopt a united stand in defense of their religion, dignity, and fate.

Hizballah Divisions, Possible Leadership Viewed

NC1410112989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] AL-SHIRA' magazine has reported that Hizballah is stricken by differences which may lead to the division

of the party if its officials fail to eliminate the divisive factors. AL-SHIRA' indicated that Hizballah intends to elect new leaders and to create new posts, such as that of a secretary general. Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli will probably be designated secretary general.

Group Claims Wounding of Syrian Soldiers

NC1510081689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced that a unit of its al-Fajr troops opened fire at a Syrian roadblock at the gate of Dayr 'Ammar in Tripoli at 0400 today. The attack scored a direct hit and wounded a member of the Syrian intelligence and another of the Syrian special units.

Immediately afterward, the Syrian occupation troops carried out wide-scale search operations and erected checkpoints near the Tripoli oil refinery in search of the culprits.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Receives New Soviet Ambassador

LD1710185689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, this morning received His Excellency Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union, who presented his credentials. Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs; (Muhammad Ishaq Tokhi), adviser to the president and head of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were also present at the meeting.

His Excellency Ambassador Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov said: Friendship and good-neighborliness between the people of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have their roots in the historic events of 70 years ago. Over the period Soviet-Afghan relations have constantly developed. The roots of these relations are anchored in the principle of good-neighborliness and good cooperation, the common interests of our peoples, and respect for the right of direct selection through development.

His Excellency Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov added: The Soviet Union supports the constructive national reconciliation policy and the peace proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan aimed at a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan, and hopes that the people of Afghanistan will reach understanding and agreement without foreign interference.

The Soviet ambassador said: The Soviet people and government will, in the future, also help the Republic of Afghanistan reach its peaceful goals in various fields.

In conclusion, the Soviet ambassador assured esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, that he will apply all of his energies toward the further development and consolidation of friendship and good-neighborliness and for the restoration, very soon, of peace and calm in Afghanistan.

Then esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, made a brief statement on the present political-military situation in the country. He said: The people of Afghanistan, both inside and outside the country, increasingly support the national reconciliation policy of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and demand the immediate cessation of war and the setting up of nationwide peace in the country.

Esteemed Najibullah also emphasized the need for political solutions through understanding and dialogue. He also explained the new peace proposals of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

On Afghan-Soviet relations, esteemed Najibullah said: Our relations [words indistinct] have a strong foundation of traditional and historic friendship between our neighborly countries. This friendship meets with the interests of the people of the two countries and peace and security in the region and world.

In conclusion, and on behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed Najibullah expressed gratitude for the friendly assistance of the Soviet Union in these difficult days, and hoped that in the future also friendship and good-neighborliness, and traditional relations will strengthen and develop.

Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil had a courtesy meeting with Soviet Ambassador Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov in his office today.

Spaniard Sentenced for 'Gathering Propaganda'

BK1810015289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1941 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 17 (AFP)—A Spanish travel writer has been sentenced to five years imprisonment by a special tribunal here for gathering anti-government propaganda and entering Afghanistan illegally, officials said Tuesday [17 October]. Jorge Sanchez Garcia, 35, was sentenced for "gathering propaganda against the government," an official said during a press conference at the Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Sanchez Garcia, who was captured August 1, was tried Sunday, but his sentence was not announced until Tuesday. He was with anti-government mujahidin rebels before he was captured in the southern province of Qandahar by government forces, officials said, adding that he had crossed into this country from Pakistan.

A native of the Barcelona area, Mr. Sanchez Garcia had earlier told press conferences that he had planned to write a travel book about his visits to several Asian countries. He said that he had been fooled by the "false propaganda" of the mujahidin. When he last appeared

before the press on September 16, the Afghan Government said that moves towards liberating the Spaniard had begun and he was allowed a meeting that day with a Turkish diplomat, whose country is the only Western nation to keep its embassy open.

The Turkish ambassador to Kabul was asked by the Spanish Government to make the necessary representations with the authorities here for gaining the release of Mr. Garcia, a diplomat here said. He added that Mr. Garcia would likely be pardoned soon and released "shortly."

Kabul released on September 14 a Frenchman, Xavier Lemire, who had been captured about a month earlier in the south while working for a human rights organisation, Handicap International. Mr. Lemire was with a group of mujahidin guerrillas, transporting artificial limbs, when they ran into a government ambush. He was released, without trial, following a plea for mercy from French President Francois Mitterrand.

'Severe' Armed Clashes Between Rebel Groups

LD1710121689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0820 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 16, BAKHTAR—As a result of severe armed clashes happened between the Gulbuddin and Rabbani extremists groups in Argandab District, Qandahar Province, 26 persons were killed and tens others were injured, recently, reported a BAKHTAR correspondent.

The clashes are continuing rapidly and both sides are using heavy armes for annihilation of each other.

Similar armed clashes took place among Rabbani and Sayaf extremists groups in Kunar Province which claimed the lives of eleven rebels and eleven others were injured.

Rebels Repulse Attack, Kill 30 Soldiers

BK1710154989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Reports say that the mujahidin in Afghanistan have repulsed an attack by Kabul soldiers on their positions in the (Koh-e Saqi) area of Kabul Province. Some 30 soldiers were killed. Three tanks of the Kabul forces were damaged and two military vehicles destroyed. The attacking soldiers had to retreat to the Bagram airfield. Reports say that the mujahidin destroyed two posts in the (Khar-e Jabal) Subdistrict south of Kabul and damaged three tanks. The mujahidin also attacked Kabul force posts at (?Zareh Kolah) District of Ghazni Province.

Government Planes Bomb Areas Near Jalalabad

BK1810020289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, Kabul regime fighter planes resorted to heavy bombing in Charikar, Ghaziabad, and (Perikandaw) southeast of Jalalabad yesterday, killing two children and a woman. According to the Afghanistan interim Islamic government's news agency, MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan], the mujahidin repulsed a Kabul regime attack to reopen the Lowghar-Gardez Highway in Mohammad Agheh District of Lowghar Province. Killed were 40 soldiers and 3 officers of the Kabul regime, and 8 tanks were destroyed.

In Qandahar, mujahidin inflicted heavy damages on Kabul regime forces.

Mujahidin attacked a post in the outskirts of Zareh Kolah District of Ghazni, killing 15 soldiers and seizing arms and ammunition.

Rebels Destroy Aircraft at Northern Base

BK1810033689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1855 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 17 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas have destroyed several Afghan Government aircraft in a series of rocket attacks on a northern air base, Western diplomats said here Tuesday [17 October]. They said the mujahidin attacked the recently improved Deh Dadi Airfield last week, located 10 kilometres (six miles) southwest of Mazar-e-Sharif, destroying an unspecified number of aircraft on the ground.

The diplomats said the regime had constructed a new airfield at Shiberghan in northern Jowzjan Province bordering the Soviet Union. The regime was also building a secondary road from northern Bagram Air Base to Kabul Airport to bypass the strategic Salang Highway, a section of which is in guerrilla hands, they said. Tarring operations were going on at both the Kabul and Bagram ends of the roughly 60 kms (37 mile) long road, diplomats said, adding that the government intended making it an all-weather road and that the extent of tarring indicated that mining the road might become difficult.

The diplomats said that in eastern Nangarhar Province the mujahidin continued to block the highway to Jalalabad, adding that a 25 kms (15 mile) stretch of the highway east of Sarowbi was captured by the mujahidin on September 25, blocking the road to convoys.

Government forces had launched armoured assaults backed by air strikes and surface-to-surface SCUD missiles from both the Jalalabad and Sarowbi ends of the highway, but although the area under mujahidin control had been constricted, the road was still blocked, they said.

Resistance sources said the government had continued heavy bombing south and southwest of the beleaguered city Tuesday, killing three civilians.

The Soviet-backed regime had also launched a major operation to resupply the besieged garrison of Khowst in eastern Paktia Province bordering Pakistan, the diplomats said. A heavily protected 200-vehicle convoy, including cargo vehicles and replacement artillery pieces, was moving south towards Khowst via Pol-e-'Alam and Gardez with a large escort of tanks and armoured personnel carriers, the resistance sources said.

It was the first significant ground resupply operation to the Khowst garrison since January 1988. The garrison was receiving supplies by air but in a recent operation guerrillas had advanced to within five kilometres (three miles) of the airport, putting it under heavy fire and forcing the government to parachute in some of the supplies, one diplomat said.

The decision to mount the supply operation was apparently made because of severe shortages of weapons and ammunition in the city because of recent heavy fighting, the diplomat said.

Latest reports said the convoy had reached Mohammed Agheh at the southern limit of Kabul's security belt, and was expected to pass through Logar Province before moving to Gardez, the capital of Paktia Province on the way to Khowst. Resistance sources claimed the convoy led by General Afzal Uddin had come under heavy attack at Mohammed Agheh and was stalled after suffering heavy casualties.

Observers said at least some of the convoy would get through provided the government was prepared to take the necessary losses. Last year a convoy took over six weeks to fight its way through to Khowst and suffered substantial losses in the last stretch of the journey.

Bangladesh

25 Arrested, 30 Injured on 1st Day of Strike

BK1810023289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1720 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 17 (AFP)—Bangladesh police arrested 25 activists on the first day of a 48-hour nationwide strike Tuesday [17 October] as activists clashed with baton wielding police leaving 30 injured, police and witnesses said. They said the arrests were made following clashes in several areas of the capital.

In one incident near downtown Dhaka University activists with red headbands clashed with police leaving 20 injured. Ten more were injured at three city districts where police charged groups of strikers attempting to prevent some private industries from operating, police sources said.

Most factories remained closed, officials said, inluding one run by the Kohinoor Group, a large public sector enterprise in northern Tejgaon industrial district.

"We were asked to report to duty and we are here, but the machines cannot operate without the workers," most of whom did not turn up, a group official said.

The strike, Bangladesh's 10th this year, was called by the opposition-led Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parisahd (SKOP) or Workers Employees Unity Council, an alliance of 18 trade union federations, to protest the alleged "apathy of the government" in settling union demands in line with a 1984 agreement. SKOP's demands include doubling the minimum monthly wage to 1,400 taka (44 U.S. dollars) and the formation of a high-powered body to probe alleged corruption in public sector enterprises.

The government in a statement Monday, hours before the opposition-backed strike was to start, urged people to oppose the "anti-state" stoppage and work normally, adding that it was "determined to protect life and property." The statement called union demands "irrational and illogical," adding that 59 strikes since 1984 had cost the country 147.5 billion taka (4.6 billion dollars). Slogan chanting union members held torchlit parades along city streets Tuesday under police escort in support of the strike. "Workers movement will continue until our demands are met," they said.

SKOP leader Abdullah Sarkar told a rally in front of the National Press Club here that workers would push their demands by "overthrowing the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad." He said the government's anti-strike statement was a "conspiracy to foil workers unity."

The official press, however, reported that life in Dhaka had returned to normal and the SKOP strike had "failed to get public response," adding that "almost all the mills and factories in different industrial areas were in operation."

Inter-district buses and most launches did not operate, but some trains left Dhaka's Kamlapur Station as scheduled, sources said. Strikers at dhaka's Central Ferry Terminal forced most vessels to leave the terminal so as to prevent normal operations, union sources said. But most passenger launches operated from the other side of Buriganga River and people were seen boarding the vessels from small boats which carried them from the terminal.

Riot police and paramilitary units patrolled the city in trucks or stood guard at key intersections, backing the government promise that those who ignored the strike would be protected. Traffic remained thin on the streets, except for trishaws, which defied the strike call and a few government-run buses. Shops and schools remained closed, while some nationalised banks and offices opened but saw little business.

Abdus Salam Khan, general secretary of the Trade Union Centre, described the strike Tuesday as "a success and mostly peaceful" across Bangladesh.

The stoppage, due to end at dawn Thursday, was also being enforced in other cities including Chittagong where port activities were hardest hit, a strike leader here said, claiming that seven strike supporters were arrested during clashes with police. The claim could not be officially confirmed.

Railway officials said train operations in western Rajshahi, eastern Akhaura and northern Mymenshingh regions was partially affected after pickets tried to block tracks.

The last general strike called by the SKOP was on July 4 when a 24-hour stoppage disrupted normal life across Bangladesh. Opposition political parties, including Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party led by Begum Khaleda Zia and several professional groups, have lent their support to the latest stoppage, although several pro-government trade unions have opposed it.

The government published advertisements in major dailies Tuesday, urging workers to find alternative ways than striking to air their grievances and added that strikes caused great losses to Bangladesh.

200 Tribe Members Return From Refugee Camps

BK1710020989 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Another 200 tribals returned to Khagrachari Hill District on Sunday [15 October] night from across the border. Most of them narrated tragic tales of inhuman sufferings during their stay in refugee camps in India.

India

Lok Sabha Elections Scheduled for 22, 24 Nov

BK1710134489 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1335 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Elections to the lower house of Indian Parliament will be held next month. The polling will be held on the 22d and 24th, and, if necessary, at a subsequent date. This was announced by the chief election commissioner in New Delhi today [17 October].

Earlier, the Union Council of Ministers met under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and decided to request the Election Commission to announce the polling and the dates. [passage omitted]

Official Discusses Elections

BK1710161289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] General elections to constitute a new Lok Sabha will be held on the 22d and 24th of the next month. This was announced by the chief election commissioner, Mr Peri Sastri, in New Delhi this evening. He said if necessary, poll will be held on a subsequent date also. Along with the Lok Sabha, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, and Goa will elect new state assemblies. Mr Sastri said the Election Commission is prepared to hold elections to other state assemblies also if such requests are received from the concerned state governments.

The Lok Sabha poll will be held in all the states except Assam where the revision of electoral rolls are yet to be completed. Polling will also not be held in some snowbound areas in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. He said he would announce the details of the poll program tomorrow. Mr Sastri said by-elections to nine assembly seats in six states will be held along with the Lok Sabha poll. These are: One each in Haryana, Kerala, Mizoram, Tripura, and West Bengal, and four in Meghalaya.

Explaining the reasons for excluding Assam from the Lok Sabha poll, the chief election commissioner said that he had discussions with the state government today on the matter and it indicated that some more time should be allowed for completing the revision of electoral rolls. The draft rolls have been published in 86 of the 126 assembly constituencies so far. Mr Sastri said the commission wants to give adequate time for the completion of the work in Assam to the satisfaction of all. Every eligible citizen should be included in the lists, while noncitizens are excluded. The commission is determined to complete the work by the 2d week of January. Only after that, Lok Sabha poll in the state will be held. He said the commission has recommended to the Center to promulgate an ordinance for de-linking Assam constituencies from the general elections.

This will be the first Lok Sabha elections in which voters in the age group of 18 to 20 will participate. Their number will be over 3.5 crores. Mr Sastri said the inclusion of these voters has increased the total electorate by 7.7 percent.

Replying to questions, the chief election commissioner denied that the poll dates have been decided under pressure from the union government. He pointed out that a continuous dialogue has been going on with the government officials to assess the requirement of the machinery to manage the conduct of the poll. He also referred to a letter from the National Front which expressed the apprehensions that the poll may be postponed. Although the term of the existing Lok Sabha is due to expire on the 14th of January, the commission has been anxious to finalize the program for the general elections at the earliest and preparations for this began as early as August last year.

Replying to a question, Mr Sastri asserted that there is no need for consulting political parties on fixing poll dates. It is only the convenience of the government to provide necessary machinery to conduct the poll to be taken into account.

Referring to electronic voting machines, the chief election commissioner said that the full quota of the 150,000 machines may not be available for use in the next month's elections. He expects only about the half the number to be ready by that time.

Allaying fears expressed by certain political parties about the efficacy of the machines, Mr Sastri said the commission will go cautiously in the use of machines in the elections only after fully satisfying itself and all the political parties. Training of personnel in using the electronic machines is already in progress, he said.

Earlier, the union Council of Ministers met in New Delhi under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The meeting decided to request the Election Commission to announce the elections and their dates. Soon after the Cabinet meeting, the prime minister drove to the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] and met the president, Mr Venkataraman, for consultations which lasted over 45 minutes.

Meanwhile, the prime minister has decided not to visit Kuala Lumpur to attend the Commonwealth summit. The Indian delegation to the summit will now be led by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao.

The Congress-I has welcomed the decision of holding early elections to the Lok Sabha. The party general secretary, Mr V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen this evening that in true democratic traditions they will take to the people the issue relating to devolution of power at the grass-roots level.

The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, has described the decision to hold general elections before schedule as bold and admirable. In a statement, he said this demonstrates the prime minister's commitment to the democratic process and his abiding faith in and respect for the will of the people. Mr Bhagat maintained that under the leadership of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Congress Party remains committed to socialist and secular ideas at a time when the country's unity and secular character are under seige.

The Janata Dal president, Mr V.P. Singh, reacting to the election announcement, said that the government has been forced to take the only option available to it. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he alleged that without this the ruling party would have exploded under its internal contradictions.

Welcoming the decision, Bharatiya Janata Party President Mr L.K. Advani said he is optimistic about seat adjustments among the opposition parties.

The general secretary of the United Communist Party of India, Mr Mohit Sen, said his party will work for the victory of the ruling party which, he maintained, was upholding the unity of the country, its secular ideas, and anti-imperialist policies.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, described the decision as sudden and intended to take the opposition by surprise. He said this will not work.

The CPI leader, Mr M.Farooqi, welcoming the announcement, said a program-based front of secular left and democratic parties can emerge as a viable alternative.

The Indian Union Muslim League has also welcomed the decision to hold elections before schedule. The league general secretary, Mr G.M. Banaswala, said the greatest responsibility of the government now is to ensure communal peace.

The Telugu Desam general secretary, Mr Ashoka Gajapati Raju, while welcoming the announcement hoped that the government would not waver from its decision.

The Madhya Pradesh chief minister, Mr Motilal Vora has also welcomed the Cabinet decision. In a statement in Bhopal, Mr Vora said the decision will frustrate the designs of those trying to (?smother) democracy. Mr Vora described the opposition as a directionless lot with no constructive program.

The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, said that the announcement is a befitting reply to those who were spreading rumors that elections would be postponed and emergency imposed.

More Politicians Comment on Election Decision

BK1810044889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] More reactions have come in on the decision to hold Lok Sabha elections on the 22d and the 24th of next month.

The Congress-I has welcomed the decision to hold early elections to the Lok Sabha. The party general secretary, Mr V.N. Gadgil, has said that in the true democratic traditions, they will take to the people the issue relating to devolution of power at the grassroots level.

The National Front chairman and Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr Rama Rao, said the National Front is ready to face the Lok Sabha elections. Talking to newsmen in Hyderabad, he said he did not expect any delay in the finalizing of the candidates and seat adjustments among the front partners and allies.

The Janata Dal leader in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Gurupadaswamy, has said that he was astonished at the way the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, announced his decision to go for the Lok Sabha polls without taking into confidence the election commission, the state governments, and the opposition parties, as he put it. The party's general secretary, Mr Jaipal Reddy, however, welcomed the government decision on an early poll.

Reacting to the announcement, the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr Sharad Pawar, said he would convey to the

prime minister the opposition members' view on holding elections to the state assembly along with the Lok Sabha.

The Gujarat chief minister, Mr Amarsinh Chaudhary, said the decision is fitting to the tradition of a democratic government to seek a fresh mandate.

Welcoming the decision, Bharatiya Janata Party president, L.K. Advani, said he is optimistic about seat adjustments among the opposition parties.

The constituents of the ruling left front in West Bengal said the sudden announcement would in no way put the opposition in difficulty.

The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr Karunanidhi, has claimed the sudden announcement of elections to the Lok Sabha as the first step to victory for the opposition parties.

The Janata Dal vice president, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, welcomed the announcement saying his party was prepared to face the elections. However, in terms of constitutional propriety, Karnataka should have been included in the list of states where polls to the Lok Sabha and the assembly were to be held.

The minister for information and broadcasting, Mr Bhagat, described it as a bold and admirable step which demonstrated the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's abiding faith in the will of the people and deep commitment to the democratic process.

Mr Biju Patnaik, opposition leader in the Orissa assembly has said that he is in favor of holding simultaneous elections both to the Lok Sabha and the state assembly.

Veteran Congress-I leader, Mr Kamalapati Tripathy, has welcomed the government's decision of holding elections to the Lok Sabha. He told newsmen that it is a right decision at the right time.

India To Buy MiG-29 Squadron From Soviets

BK1610113689 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 7 Oct 89 p 6

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 6 (UNI) [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA]—India has finalised a contract for the purchase of one more squadron of MiG-29 fighter aircraft from the Soviet Union in fly-away condition.

With this, the strength of the MiG-29s in the Indian Air Force will rise to three squadrons.

With the purchase of another squadron it is certain that India will now exercise its option to produce under licence the MiG-29 aircraft at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The first two squadrons of Mig-29, numbering 44 aircraft, were received in batches in the middle of 1987 and inducted into squadron service in December, the same year.

According to aviation experts, the latest squadron of MiG-29 will incorporate "some improvements" over the previous version.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the Soviet Union has indicated to India that it is producing another advanced version of the MiG-29 with higher fuel capacity to give the fighter aircraft greater endurance, range and enhanced air-to-ground capabilities.

The Soviets have also declared their intention to equip the MiG-29 with the fly-by-wire system to further improve its performance and have offered this advanced version to India.

According to defence experts, if the Indian Air Force goes in for the improved MiG-29s then it would not need to add more Mirage 2000 aircraft which are three times costlier than the MiGs.

The Soviet Union has also offered the latest Sukhoi-27 fighter which it unveiled recently at the Paris air show.

The Su-27 which the NATO has codenamed "Flanker" was tested with the fly-by-wire system even before the American F-15, the Soviet cliam. The Soviets have a naval version of the Su-27 in testing stage which could also be made available to India later.

Editorial Supports Pakistan-Soviet Dialogue

BK1410064689 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 5 Oct 89 p 8

[Editorial: "A Straw in the Wind?"]

[Text] The Soviet-Pakistan agreement on a draft of a resolution to be placed before the UN General Assembly in pursuit of a political solution of the Afghan problem is highly significant. The actual draft has not yet been released but the very fact that the two countries have found it necessary to present one shows, at the very least, that Ms Benazir Bhutto now thinks that a quest for Afghan peace cannot be meaningful without Soviet cooperation. This approach is materially different from the one she had adopted so far. In switching over to a new line, she has been consistent in one respect, namely, in closely following the American lead in regard to Afghanistan. For, the meeting between the Pakistani and Soviet Foreign Ministers to produce a joint resolution on Afghanistan came soon after Mr Shevardnadze's crucial talks with the US Secretary of State, Mr James Baker. An American shift on Afghanistan was evident in the US-Soviet communique issued after these talks inasmuch as it envisaged the setting up in Kabul of a "broad national reconciliation" government—a key expression in the Kabul-Moscow lexicon in the past year or so.

This is the second drastic change in the US-Pakistan policy on Afghanistan. Before this, it was their support, confirmed only last month, for the return of ex-King Zahir Shah from exile so that he could hasten a political solution. Will the momentum lead even to the abandonment of the hitherto rigid US-Pakistan stand against the

involvement of Dr Najibullah in diplomatic moves towards an Afghan settlement? It will be no surprise if some sections of the Afghan rebel alliance in Peshawar will now start feeling that such a volte-face can no longer be brushed aside as being far-fetched. They certainly will not be amused by the fact that a leading Pakistani journalist, Ahmed Rashid, visited Kabul a few days ago and interviewed Dr Najibullah and most of his close colleagues in the ruling PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan]. Ahmed Rashid found them all noticeably confident of the PDPA's "military and political strength".

If the PDPA's morale is indeed as high as has been indicated by the Pakistani visitor, the reason is not far to seek. One whole season permitting any major military engagements has almost come to a close. [sentence as published] With winter about to set in, the rebel groups which, if anything, may be suffering from a surfeit of sophisticated weapons, have little to show for all their highly publicised onslaughts in the seven months since the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. How long can Islamabad and Washington be blind to this reality?

Violent Incidents in Punjab Leave 11 Dead

BK1710023589 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Eleven persons, including a constable and two terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents in Punjab since last night. An official spokesman said terrorists shot dead the constable and injured three shopkeepers in Tarn Taran town of Amritsar District.

Elsewhere in the district, four persons were gunned down, including three belonging to one family. In other parts of the state, the terrorists shot dead four people and security forces killed two terrorists in an encounter. The police at the same time arrested one hardcore terrorist in Kapurthala District and recovered a medium machine gun and 500 rounds of ammunition from him.

Punjab To Raise Youth Anti-Terrorism Force

BK1710163589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The Punjab Government has announced a time-bound scheme to raise a task force of 10,000 youths from the border districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, and Ferozepore in a bid to counter terrorism in the state. Speaking to newsmen in Chandigarh today, the state governor, Mr Siddarth Shankar Ray, said it would be a short-term crash employment program. Youths in the age group of 16 to 20 would be recruited from villages within 16 km of the international border. Mr Ray said the 10-crore-rupee scheme would be launched from the 14th of the next month.

4th Town Placed Under Curfew Following Riots

BK1810005289 Hong Kong AFP in English 2104 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 17 (AFP)—Another Indian town was placed under curfew Tuesday [17 October] following communal riots in two towns in eastern Bihar State which left at least one person dead and 18 injured, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

PTI said one of the two towns, Jharia in Bihar's coal-mining belt of Dhanbad, was placed under curfew, the fourth to come under such restrictions since communal violence broke out in three states at the weekend.

Unidentified people opened fire on a procession passing through Jharia triggering fights between rival factions from two communities, PTI said. At least one person was killed when police opened fire to quell the rioting that left a dozen injured, officials quoted by the news agency said.

Elsewhere in Bihar State, some six people were injured when a procession was attacked at Dumria in Bihar's Gaya District by an unidentified group, PTI said, but did not say which communities were involved in either town.

Some 24 people were killed and about 100 injured in Hindu-Muslim clashes in central Madhya Pradesh State's Indore Township Saturday and Monday, officials in the state capital Bhopal have said. An indefinite curfew was clamped on Indore but there were no reports of violence Tuesday.

In western Gujarat State, one person was killed and four policemen were injured during Hindu-Muslim riots in the district town of Guj Sunday, following which the town's worst-hit Sidhpur District was placed under an indefinite curfew, PTI said earlier.

All three states are governed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) party.

Iran

Yazdi's Comments on Cooper Case Questioned

PM1710153789 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 4 Oct 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Different Reactions to Chief Justice's Comments"]

[Text] There have been various types of reaction in the local press to the remarks made by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, in his meeting with Lily Cooper, relative of the British spy Roger Cooper, who has been in prison in Iran since 1985. Of course, it has to be said that one aspect of the remarks indicates the degree of the judges' independence and the solidity of the judicial system. If they did not relate to a

country like Britain, which thinks that we owe it something, the remarks could also be taken to show the degree of judicial system's goodwill and compassion toward criminals, even those with major crimes like spying. But since the remarks concerned an experienced spy from London, keeping in mind his government's numerous crimes against the people of Iran, there were some parts of Ayatollah Yazdi's comments which could weaken the Islamic Republic's position in relation to Britain.

The chief justice stressed in his meeting with Lily Cooper that her relative's case is a judicial matter, although spying is considered a political issue because a spy is a person who places at the disposal of his government confidential information about another country. This issue could not be outside the political sphere. The head of the judicial system also said at this same meeting that no one has the power to change the judge's verdict. This, of course, is due to the independence of the judge in Islamic justice.

But then he said that, as far as the judiciary was concerned, Cooper's file was closed and that he was serving out his jail sentence. This makes for confusion as to why the outcome of the spy's trial and the length of his sentence have not been announced to the public. Does this kind of action not indicate a current forming in the judiciary that could indicate a rift in the justice system? In order to remove this doubt it is necessary to announce to the public the Islamic sentence passed on spies. The judicial system and the judge who tried Roger Cooper must announce to the public the sentence passed on the man.

The other issue that has to be cleared up is the goodwill and the compassion of a Muslim toward his enemy, which must be distinguished from a steadfast approach to the Islamic Republic's enemies. It is questionable why the head of the judicial system, as a Muslim would hope for Cooper's release, but the issue becomes even more serious when there is talk of the role of the leader's powers in freeing Cooper. The dignity of the leader has to be safeguarded, so that the country is not unarmed in the face of all this propaganda and these enemy plots.

The article in the TEHRAN TIMES praising Roger Cooper has not been forgotten yet. This is why such remarks must not be taken to mean that there is a link between the groundwork done by the newspaper and the comments of Ayatollah Yazdi.

The issue creates even more sensitivity in society when taken in context with Britain's actions toward Kurosh Fuladi. When the judiciary did not complain about the torture inflicted on Fuladi during his 10-year-sentence, how can the people of Iran accept this sort of goodwill toward an experienced spy? Will the Western media regard this as compassion, or will they read something else into it? If this kind of action is credited to the government which sent the spy, are these gentlemen aware of the consequences?

Justice Minister Responds to Majlis Deputies

NC1710221089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Oct 89 pp 1, 5

[Text] Tehran—Justice Minister Esma'il Shushtari will not appear in the Majlis in response to a letter written to him by 110 members of parliament, informed sources said yesterday.

The sources talking to the TEHRAN TIMES said that the justice minister in a letter to Majlis Speaker Hojjat-ol Eslam Mahdi Karrubi said that on the basis of the constitution's Articles 88 and 137 every minister is responsible for his own ministry's affairs.

Shushtari said that the meeting of Judiciary Head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi with jailed Roger Cooper's family member is directly connected with the judiciary and not with the Ministry of Justice.

He was referring to a meeting of Ayatollah Yazdi with Mrs Lili, wife of Roger Cooper's brother, last month. This meeting created an uproar in the Persian media in Iran and also in the Majlis. Question was raised that why Ayatollah Yazdi met with the family member of a spy.

Roger Cooper was arrested on charges of spying against the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1985.

The unidentified members of the parliament under the constitution article 88 wrote a letter to the justice minister. The article allows the Majlis deputies to call the minister for an explanation of his action. The minister, according to the article, is bound to respond to the call within 10 days.

The time limit in the case of 110 members of parliament was expired on last Sunday.

Observers here, however, believe that the issue of calling the minister to the Majlis has almost died down with the response of Shushtari.

RESALAT Defends Judiciary Head's Actions

NC1610225089 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Oct 89 pp 2, 7

[Commentary by Asadollah Badamchian entitled: "Regarding the Meeting With the Head of the Judiciary"]

[Excerpts] The perceptive and sagacious actions taken by the esteemed head of the judiciary and the categorical statement that he made are worthy of appreciation and gratitude.

In an era in which Great Britain, which claims to be an exponent of culture and democracy, incarcerates an Iranian youth for years without any regard for humanitarian or even international norms and inflicts physical injury on him, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's judiciary performs one of the most remarkable humanitarian acts, to enable enlightened conscientious human

beings to comprehend the lofty values of Islamic ideology and see how low the so-called champions of human rights are.

With his immense intelligence, the head of the judiciary proved how attached the Islamic Republic of Iran is to divine values. The Islamic Republic has arrested a spy—affiliated to the British colonialists who for more than a century have committed the highest form of treason, and the worst crimes, directly or through its agents in our country, and with which ties are severed at the moment—and treated him in accordance with Islamic norms, permitting his relatives to meet him, for which they are grateful. This gratitude, in fact, has further highlighted the brutal policy of the British and the humanitarian policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

The head of the judiciary clearly stated that we cannot effect any change in the sentence and only the leader, the supreme jurisconsult, can do so. He therefore considers the matter out of the hands of the political and judicial officials; it is now a question for the leader, the greatness and importance of whose status offends all the enemies of God.

This valuable and gratifying measure at this timely juncture generated favorable publicity for the sacred system of the Islamic Republic in the best possible way. Unfortunately, however, one or two publications, instead of capitalizing on the opportunity and further humiliating the British tyrants, adopted a negative position. They mentioned this humanitarian and salutary measure using barbs and invective such as "interests of which they had no knowledge" for the purpose of, God forbid, placating the British or arranging compromises behind the scenes! This indignation stemmed from the permission granted to Cooper's wife [as published] to meet him. They asked why this was done and why Ayatollah Yazdi said that "As a human being, I hope he will be awarded an Islamic pardon."

What is most regrettable is that one or two deputies whose"political background and stance in the past clarifies many things" repeated similar accusations in their pre-agenda speeches. The minister of justice was also handed a note containing the same question in a letter signed by 110 deputies; however, this letter was not so much used to ask a question as to state a position. Therefore, I feel it necessary to clarify a few points:

1. The above act, for reasons stated earlier, was a valuable and effective measure which can be capitalized upon to the maximum extent in our foreign policy and used by our media to project the pure Islam of Mohammad—peace be upon him and his scion.
2. The head of the judiciary's meeting with any ordinary individual or family member of a criminal is proof that in every case one can hope to be able to speak to judicial authorities and get an answer. [passage omitted].
3. In Islam, the judiciary sentences every criminal on the basis of justice, and influence by people in high places and accusations by others have no effect whatsoever. [passage omitted]
4. The meeting that took place is more meaningful on the international level in light of the cruelty and brutality inflicted on an imprisoned Iranian youth. If the family members of the British spy had requested a meeting and permission had not been granted, the Western mass media would have made a great outcry and placed a question mark over Islam, claiming that the treatment of the Iranian youth was justified. Which would have been more to the benefit of Islam and Islamic Iran—this or the granting of permission to meet the highest judicial authorities?
5. Did Ayatollah Yazdi, God forbid, enter into any compromise or show any signs of weakness? [passage omitted]
6. Is a respectful and courteous statement on the part of the judicial authorities not preferable to vehement and abusive slogans?
7. It has been asked why permission was granted for a meeting with the highest level of authority and not with the foreign minister. There is no doubt that whoever the meeting had taken place with, the same media and deputies would still have raised objections. [passage omitted]

Much can be said, but in conclusion I wish to make it clear that whatever was said and done was said and done on the basis of Islamic obligations and courtesy and not to please Great Britain or out of concern as to whether it would or would not object. Islam ordains that we should observe humanitarian and kind behavior and conform to divine laws with regard to all human beings. [passage omitted]

TEHRAN TIMES on Judiciary Role, 5-Year Plan

NC1710153789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Judiciary Role Vital to Success of 5-Year Plan"]

[Text] The government headed by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is making history after showing light to the comprehensive Five-Year Plan which will cover all aspects of society of this country.

In a recent Friday prayer sermon President Hashemi-Rafsanjani promised the nation that his government will do its best for the betterment of the life of the common people.

The approval of the Five-Year Plan by the Hashemi-Rafsanjani cabinet with one voice last Sunday is a proof that the colleagues of the president are committed to the goals of the Islamic Revolution.

Contrary to the previous government of Hoseyn Musavi, the present government is in a better position to pay due attention towards the lot of the common people. The

previous government was pre-occupied with the war affairs which was imposed on Iran.

The national wealth both in terms of natural resources and manpower was channeled to the unwanted war which, if not ended completely, has stopped. The economic plan as Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his press conference last Sunday said has been designed in such a way that another war will never surprise the nation which will face the enemy with iron hands.

We should appreciate the Hashemi-Rafsanjani government that without wasting time the cabinet ministers revised and finalized the Five-Year Plan earlier set by the previous government.

The Majlis will start discussions on the plan this week. We hope that the Majlis will make it a point to see to it that the nation wastes no time and all of us hope that the reconstruction of thecountry should start as soon as possible.

A most important part is to be played by the Judiciary. It was really pleasing to hear Judiciary Head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi who addressing Friday prayers yesterday warned the hoarders, those overpricing and black marketeers and made it clear that the nation will not tolerate malpractices in the commercial fields.

The nation expects the Judiciary to frame rules to catch the culprits and punish them severely so that they may not be able to shatter the dreams of the nation for a better life in future.

The nation, the government, the Majlis and the Judiciary all are one and thanks to God that there are no differences between them watever. So we do not see any reason why the Hashemi-Rafsanjani government will not succeed.

If the Judiciary plays its role carefully then no hurdle can come in the way of better economic conditions in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

TEHRAN TIMES on Support for Economic Policy

NC1710153989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "President's Economic Plans To Be Fully Backed"]

[Text] After months of long and frustrating negotitions Iran and its Japanese partner, Mitsui agreed to settle their case and open the doors for further cooperation between Tehran and Tokyo.

In other news it was announced by the Oil Minister, Aqazadeh, that the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) had settled its financial differences with the American company Ashland. These reports came amid the news that the government had passed the five-year economic and social plan which goes to the Majlis for final review. It is important to put the recent economic reforms and developments in perspective and question how they can be utilized in the most efficient of ways.

Leaers of the country have had very little time to address their minds to detailed planning and management of the newly established Islamic State, since they were for the most part preoccupied during recent years with internal and external conspiracies, especially the imposed war. Now that the crucial and sentitive era has passed and the nation of Iran has proved itself as deserving the blessed fruits of the revolution, it is time now to fulfil the promises of this movement.

It goes without saying that the top leaders of the country agree on this point, tht the general welfare of the people should be improved. People have, in return, chosen a strong and revolutionary president to lead them through the next four years. It is therefore highly important that the other branches of the system give their fullest cooperation to the president in this task. In this regard the Majlis should view the five-year plan proposed by the government on the basis of economic realities prevailing in the country today and see in what ways those who are most devoted to the Islamic system can be helped and not hurt. Action above and beyond political partisan considerations is called for.

Through its proposed reforms the government has made it clear that it is ready to take a supervisory role when it comes to trade and commerce. This is good, since it helps to rejuvenate the economic drives and motivation among the people. This, however, should be taken beyond economic issues and cover cultural aspects as well. It is the duty of the government to crete the atmosphere in which talent can grow and individuals can be identified and placed according to their qualifications, so that the right man can be fitted into the right job. Management of this country should be in the hands of people who are well trained for it and are supportive of the goals of the revolution, propagation of Islam and desire prosperity for Moslems.

The nation is ready, resources are available and there is more than enough know-how available for managing ourselves in the best of ways. To be successful, however, every segment of the system must unite behind the leadership and give their utmost support to the president.

Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meet Hizballah Heads

LD1610182989 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Monday received members of the Central Council and Political Bureau of the Lebanese Hizballah here.

The group submitted to Ayatollah Khamene'i a comprehensive report on the latest situation in the war torn country as well as on the current developments in the region.

The leader of the revolution described the visitors and their fellow combatants in Lebanon as "warriors on the path of God." He added "you have rendered valuable services for the cause of Islam in the region and in Lebanon."

Ayatollah Khamene'i also warned against the "dangerous and unprecedented joint plot of global arrogance and Zionism" but said the enemies "are weak before the spiritual strength of the faithful despite their (the enemies') gaudiness."

In another meeting Sunday [15 October], the group met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who reiterated Iran's support for the rightful struggle of the Lebanese Muslim people.

Larijani Discusses Regional, Soviet, U.S. Ties

PM1710135089 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Sep 89 p 19

[Report on Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani]

[Text] Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani, our deputy foreign minister, clearly spelled out the principles of establishing ties between Iran and the United States. He emphasized that if the United States wants to have relations with Iran, it should create the right conditions to have sensible relations with the "mother" of the Islamic world.

He said he also thought the present conditions presented a golden opportunity for peace with Iraq and stressed that there will soon be a general agreement with regional countries. Dr Larijani, in an interview with IRNA, talked about the present state of the peace talks with Iraq and said: Holding direct talks with Iraq is not a strange thing because we believe that there should be peace between the peoples of Iraq and Iran and this is something that goes much further than talks between two governments. He added: What is noteworthy is the excuses that Iraq is making. By using lovely phrases like peace, and direct negotiations, it wants to somehow avoid implementing Resolution 598 to achieve the goals for which it started the war 8 years ago, but of course it will not succeed.

Larijani said: We must not allow Iraq to run away from the real issues at the negotiating sessions by bringing up symbolic things. We think the path to peace is quite clear. The only problem is that Iraq has not managed to reach a definite decision in that regard. This is a golden opportunity for peace, to achieve the territorial integrity of nations and their integrity in accordance with international laws.

With regard to Iran's relations with regional countries, Mr Larijani said: We shall soon have a general agreement in this area. If countries such as Iraq, from within the region, and nations like the United States and Britain from outside, do not damage this process, it will be completed in the near future. In accordance with this agreement, we shall not only establish friendly and normal ties with regional nations, we shall also have a great deal of economic, industrial, commercial and political cooperation with them.

Deputy foreign minister Larijani then commented on the issue of relations between Iran and the United States and its future saying: The relations between Iran and the United States have become a famous issue in technical and non-technical political discussions. There are some who believe that the United States should take the first step, and there are others who believe that if these relations are in the interest of the Islamic Republic, then they are a religious duty for the regime, which should then make an effort in this regard, whether it be as a first or second step.

He added: The interests of the Islamic Republic outside of its borders depend on three things: Safeguarding the position of the Islamic Republic as the source of leadership within the entire Islamic world; Strengthening the country's defenses and security; and finally, promoting growth in the country. Relations with the United States have to be within the framework of realizing and safeguarding these principles.

He said: The problem with the United States is that Iran is not a country, bound by borders with a population of 50 million. Iran is the "mother country" for all of Islam with a gross population of 1 billion. Do the Americans have the guts to have sensible relations with the "mother" of the Islamic world? Do relations with the United States offer any advantages for Iran and its position in the Islamic world? If the Americans really want to have relations with Iran, they have to create a situation whereby the answer to the two questions mentioned above would move in an affirmative direction. This is why Iran's relations with the United States—despite confusion over hostage-taking and the issue of Iran's blocked funds—are very clear as far as the basics are concerned.

Mr Larijani continued the interview by saying that the future of relations with the Soviet Union is very positive and constructive. He said: This is because there are strong foundations for cooperation between the two nations and because we are getting closer to unified thinking in organizing our ties.

He added: Today, we have reached a level of certainty with regard to bilateral ties, that we have projected our cooperation in industry, trade, energy, defense industries and international cooperation all the way to the year 2000. The results of the ties between Iran and the USSR are not limited to the two countries alone; I see the region's geopolitical picture in the coming decade as something different and our relations will have a major role in shaping this picture.

Larijani said: The countries in this region have to regard the relations between Iran and the USSR as an effective element in establishing peace and security in the area

and they should not regard it as a new excuse for the expansion of superpower influence.

He concluded the interview by speaking of President Gorbachev's future visit to Iran and said: In continuing the process of our relations, these kinds of trips will occur in the future. The preparations and the protocol for such a trip will be announced at the proper time by the ministries of foreign affairs in both the Soviet Union and Iran.

Remarks on U.S. Ties Clarified

PM1710135289 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Sep 89 p 2

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Larijani contacted this newspaper today to clarify his statement printed in the newspaper yesterday headlined "If relations between Iran and the United States are useful, one must make an effort in this regard." He said:

1. The main issue in relations between Iran and the United States is not to see who takes the first symbolic steps. If that were the case it would mean that there are no basic problems in the relations between the two countries and that the only differences that remain are those dealing the shape and form of the ties.
2. I believe that ties with the United States, under present conditions, have no advantages for the regime, especially for our dignity in the Islamic world as the "mother" country. This has nothing to do with who takes the first step toward establishing relations.
3. We can only take a serious look at relations between Iran and the United States when these ties have a definite advantage for us. If that were to happen, the kind of approach used could easily be determined.

Ayatollah Amini Addresses Islamic Unity Conference

LD1610145189 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—Muslim scholars and writers were urged during the second day of the ongoing Islamic Unity conference to rise up against enemy plots to alienate Islam from the Muslim world.

Speaking at the session, held at Tehran University here today, member of the Experts Assembly Ayatollah Ibrahim Amini said the enemies of Islam have not made investments in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Palestine and other Muslim countries in order to destroy a certain sect. "Their main aim is Islam itself," he stressed.

He said Islamic unity did not mean that Shia or Sunni Muslims should abandon their beliefs, but the main goal was to safeguard Islam and thwart the plots of those who think unity between these two Islamic sects unlikely.

Mohammad Tijani, a guest from Tunisia in the meantime addressed the session and said: "While there is a very narrow distance between Islam and Christianity, how can we accept discord between Shia and Sunni Muslims, while these two have a single religion and prophet?".

He also hailed the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in materialisation of unity among the world Muslims.

Some 540 foreign and local Islamic scholars and intellectuals are participating in the conference which opened here today.

Islamic Unity Meeting Ends, Issues Resolution

LD1610195189 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—A third conference on Islamic unity wound up its work in the Iranian capital Monday evening after two days of deliberations on ways to realise practical unity by world Muslims.

Speaking at the concluding session of the confab, the president's political advisor, Hoseyn Musavi remarked that Islamic states' nationalistic policies in political, economic and cultural domains was the reason for the existing rift among world Muslims.

"The nationalism emerging in the Islamic states today as a Western souvenir is an ominous and divisive phenomenon," he pointed out.

The ex-premier said another hurdle on the way of Muslims' solidarity was the existence of "dependent and subservient rulers" in Islamic states. "These rulers, through spreading the American brand of Islam, are trying to do away with real and genuine Islam."

In a resolution issued at the end of the conference, the 500 foreign and Iranian scholar participants welcomed a proposal by the leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to set up an international center to bring Islamic schools of jurisprudence closer through theological debates. While announcing readiness for cooperation in this regard, they urged the conference officials to pave the way for the accomplishment of "this sublime goal."

The resolution also said the recent clashes between Shia and Sunni Muslims in Pakistan only served the interest of the enemies and was to the disadvantage of Muslims.

The participants also condemned the Mecca Massacre of over 400 Hajj pilgrims by the Saudi Arabian regime (in summer 1987) as well as the recent beheading of 16 Kuwait Muslims by the Riyadh government. They called for the formation of a council comprising representatives and 'ulema of Islamic states to administer the two holy shrines in Mecca and al-Medinah.

The resolution also called for the implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and urged the international organisations to see into Iraqi violations in this regard.

The conference was part of Unity Week celebrations marking the auspicious birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH [peace be upon him]).

Saudi Executions Seen Aimed Against Country

PM1710152189 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 4 Oct 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Saudi Arabian Efforts To Prevent Healthy Relations in the Persian Gulf]

[Text] The most recent crimes of the Al-Sa'ud regime in martyring 16 Kuwaiti Muslims could not be taken as anything other than an effort to muddy the recently-improved relations between Iran and the Persian Gulf littoral countries. Al-Sa'ud recognized that Iran's policy of improving ties with the Persian Gulf countries, minus Saudi Arabia, could have unpleasant results for that country. So, by murdering a group of Kuwaiti Muslims on false charges of planting a bomb at Mecca, he is trying to prevent the expansion of ties between the Islamic Republic and the Persian Gulf nations. It was decided to charge Kuwaiti Muslims with supporting the Islamic Republic for the same reason: so that Kuwait—which in Saudi Arabia's absence could have played a key role in Iran's relations with the rest of the Persian Gulf—would be belittled in some way.

In beheading the Kuwaiti Muslims, Saudi Arabia naively announced that their crime was planting a bomb at Mecca. Yet everyone knows that the 16 martyrs and some others were arrested while taking part in mourning ceremonies marking the death of the imam. The Saudi Arabian regime then said that the men were followers of Iran, and beheaded them on charges of planting a bomb at Mecca.

The Saudi Arabian regime also tried to suggest that the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait was somehow involved in the bombing incident, and then staged an interview with two of the accused on television even though, after the martyrdom of the 16, the interview would be of little value and, as far as analysts were concerned, was nothing but a show.

On the other hand, the Saudi Arabian efforts to blame the bombing on Iran, by saying that the Islamic Republic was determined to show the Saudi Arabians as incapable of governing the two holy mosques, are a childish claim, because Iran is expressing doubts about the effectiveness of the Saudi Arabian regime, not the Saudi Arabian secret police. It is now quite clear to all that the Saudi Arabian regime is operating a police state with the help of U.S. security organizations.

ETTELA'AT Comments on Relations With Italy

NC1610185389 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 30 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Downgrading of Ties With Italy"]

[Text] Following the dissemination of a letter by a group of U.S. Congressional representatives, a group of Italian members of parliament took the same line in a letter calling for support of the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq organization].

This chain of events began with a similar letter by the European Parliament, in which the second link was supplied by the U.S. congressional representatives and the third by the Italian members of Parliament.

As for the letter by the European Parliament, which was more of a formality and lacked substance, the Islamic Republic of Iran's indifference was an appropriate response.

Regarding the letter by the U.S. congressional representatives, the Islamic Majlis deputies as well as other organizations displayed a strong and appropriate reaction.

One point may be mentioned in connection with the letter by the Italian members of parliament. That is the fact that the letter was also signed by two Italian cabinet ministers. The Italian Government and Parliament are like a seething cauldron, the contents of which are constantly on the move; even so, the signatures of two cabinet members is a point worth noting. Unless the Italian Government condemns these measures, a downgrading of diplomatic ties would be an answer which the Italian Government and Parliament might well take note of. They would then see that our government, Majlis, and revolution are not be held hostage by the lowly sons of Mussolini!

ETTELA'AT Calls for Condemnation of Iraq

NC1610184089 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 2 Oct 89 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "We Should Think of Something Else"]

[Excerpts] "The foreign ministers of five UN Security Council member countries have, in a statement, called on Iran and Iraq to implement Resolution 598, exchange POW's, and withdraw their respective forces to international borders. Iran and Iraq are also requested to cooperate with the UN secretary general in the implementation of Resolution 598."

It is an occasion for gratitude that once again the UN Security Council members have insisted on the need for the establishment of peace in the Middle East and that, with the exception of the U.S. secretary of state, all the foreign ministers of the UN Security Council member countries reiterated their support for the dynamic trend in the Middle East for the attainment of a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in the region.

This is not the first time that the UN secretary general, and all the prominent politicians of the world, have individually or collectively voiced their opinions on the issue of war or peace in the Middle East and the establishment of a real, permanent peace in the Iran-Iraq

border regions. It is a source of regret, however, that not once have they mentioned the bitter truth about whether, of the parties concerned, it is Iran or Iraq that has shown negligence—indeed utter indifference—to the implementation of the substance of Resolution 598. [passage omitted]

The UN Security Council members should now go beyond the stage of expressing generalities and explanations and should announce specifically who it is that has been hedging about the withdrawal of its forces to international borders all this time. Is the Algiers accord not the most explicit and credible document regarding the international borders of Iran and Iraq?

It is here, quoting Dr Velayati, the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minister, that we stress that if once again Iraq tries to circumvent the acceptance and implementation of Resolution 598 to which it is committed, the UN secretary general and Security Council members will have to think of something else.

Opium Seized in Clash With Drug Smugglers

LD1710140789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] According to IRNA, through the efforts of the Islamic Revolution Committee Guards under the command of the Muhammad Rasullah base in the east of the country, 149 kg of opium were found and seized in the last few days in a clash with drug smugglers. The report states: The clash with the drug smugglers lasted 3 days and the merchants of death fled after suffering casualties. They abandoned several vehicles.

Afghan Minister Heads 'Official' Delegation

TA1610090889 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] An official Afghan delegation headed by the Afghan minister of health arrived in Tehran and met with officials of the Islamic Republic regime.

Pakistan

Air Force Chief Departs for Tehran 18 Oct

BK1810090389 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] The chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah, left for Tehran today on an official visit to Iran for talks with Iranian officials.

Sind Nationalists Observe 'Black Day' of Protest

BK1810010489 Hong Kong AFP in English 2035 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Karachi, Oct 17 (AFP)—Sind nationalists observed a "black day" of protest in various towns in Pakistan's southern Sind Province Tuesday [17 October] calling for the release of [word indistinct] M. Syed, witnesses said.

A bomb explosion in a barracks near the Jinnah Post-Graduate Medical Centre early Tuesday killed a medical orderly and injured three people in the children's ward of a nearby hospital, hospital sources said. Police were investigating the blast but no arrests had been made. One source said the explosion could have been caused by a bomb planted in the barracks, but other people believed someone had thrown the bomb.

In another incident three unidentified men also attacked a police post near the heavily guarded Karachi University campus and also tried to set fire to a gas station, witnesses said. Police officials said they suspected the attempt was part of the "black day" protest. Officials also linked an attempt by unknown snipers on three ministers of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) in the Sind cabinet Monday to the protest.

Response to the "black day" call was limited with life in the province's three major cities continuing as usual despite isolated incidents of violence. The protest was complete in northern Sind's Larkana District, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's home district, and in the adjoining districts of Dadu and Jacobabad.

Mr. Syed, 86, along with some three dozen armed followers of his Jiye Sind Movement (JSM) were turned over to the Sind police by authorities in Punjab on October 10. He had escaped to Punjab after the Sind government ordered his detention for 30 days for making "seditious speeches and challenging the federal structure" of the country the previous week.

His JSM activists, accused of secessionist tendencies, allegedly burnt Pakistan's flag at a protest meeting in the town of Sukkur, in ethnically troubled Sind Province. During the meeting he gave the ruling Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) 15 days to break an accord it signed in December with the MQM, which represents Urdu speaking settlers in the province. Tuesday was the last day of the ultimatum.

UN Delegate Draws Attention to Kashmir Issue

BK1710112389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] At the United Nations, Pakistan has reaffirmed its support to the right of self-determination of the people and has drawn the attention of the international community to the unresolved question of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at the security committee of the General Assembly last night, the Pakistani delegate, Miss Anisa Zeb, said Pakistan will continue to see a peaceful settlement of this dispute in accordance with the UN resolution which recognized the right of the people of the state to decide their future.

Expressing Pakistan's resolute support to the just cause of the Palestinian and Arab people, she called for all possible steps enabling them to exercise their right of self-determination. The Pakistani delegate also supported Namibia in its struggle for independence as well as Afghanistan and Cambodia which are struggling for their self-determination.

Sri Lanka

Indian Troops To Leave Ampara by 'Next Week'

BK1810072089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0656 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Oct 18 (AFP)—Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's multi-ethnic eastern Ampara District will withdraw from the area completely by next week, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne announced here Wednesday [18 October]. The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) troops are now in the process of dismantling small outposts in the region and will complete evacuating Ampara and leave the island by October 25, the minister said.

Mr. Wijeratne, who is also the junior defence minister, said Sri Lankan police will take over maintaining law and order in the area and will be directly responsible to the chief minister of the Northeastern Province. He said troops began leaving Ampara on Monday but could not immediately say how many had already left or the IPKF strength in Ampara. "I think they have much more than 5,000 troops in Ampara," Mr. Wijeratne said. The minister said he hoped the entire 40,000-strong IPKF will be able to withdraw from the island republic by the end of the year in line with a bilateral undrestanding reached on September 18.

"We hope all troops can leave by the end of the year. It is the will to go that matters," the minister said. The pull-out will be on an area-by-area basis from the two main ports in the northeast. He told reporters here that some 60 elite police commandos of the special task force will be withdrawn from Ampara. The Sri Lankan Army will have a bigger presence in Ampara after the IPKF leaves, but will be non-operational.

"The Sri Lankan Army will be called out for military duties only with the consent of president (Ranasinghe Premadasa) and the chief minister (Varadharaja Perumal) in the event of an emergency situation," Mr. Wijeratne said. He said some 1,500 men in a paramilitary force called the Citizen's Volunteer Force (CVF) raised by Mr. Perumal's provincial council will be absorbed into the police and armed services.

The government will introduce legislation in November to set up a provincial police force to devolve law and order functions to the island's eight provinces, Mr. Wijeratne said. He is also heading a committee to supervise the IPKF withdrawal and ensure there is no bloodletting among rival Tamil groups in the island's northeastern region. [passage omitted]

Communique on Violence, Arrest of Subversives

BK1610112589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1011 GMT 16 Oct 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 16 (LANKAPUVATH)—A father and two sons were hacked to death by unidentified persons at Radaliyadda in Sri Lanka's Uva Province and 104 suspected subversives were taken in for questioning by the security forces during the last twenty four hours, states a government communique issued today. The communique further states that in the Western Province at Colombo police arrested 4 suspects while they were pasting subversive posters at Slave Island and at Kalutara, south of Colombo subversives set fire to a rubber factory.

At Kegalle in the Sabaragamuwa Province security forces arrested a suspected subversive with 485 national identity cards at Kitulgoda in the same area during a cordon and search operation police arrested a suspect and recovered 3 shot guns. At Watiwagala Kanda, Ratnapura, police recovered shot guns, rds, torches and cartridges from a cave. Two brothers M. Piyasena and K.M. Abeyratne from Panamura in the same area were stabbed to death and subversives removed two .303 rifles and forty rounds of ammunition from two constables who were on duty at Pettigala tea factory. At Welipothyaya in the same province, subversives entered the rural bank, hacked to death the co-operative manager and a security guard and removed cash Rs 15,890. Subversives had also set fire to the Maharagama grama sevaka [village-level official] office.

In the Southern Province at Galle subversives set fire to the post office and provincial council office at Baddegama, all documents of the Rekada sub-post office and the grama sevaka office and also to the Indeketiya sub-post office. At Hambantota in the same province subversives set fire to the Hungama sub-post office and documents of the Ranna post office. At Beliatta, police arrested a subversive for robbing cash and ticket books from a Sri Lanka transport board bus. At Matara during a search operation security forces fired at two suspected subversives when they attempted to escape. Later they succumbed to their injuries.

At Monaragala in the Uva Province, two unidentified youths hacked to death a father and two sons W.A.G. Panditharatne, W.G. Panditharatne and G.K.G. Panditharatne at Radaliyadda.

At Hambegamuwa in the Kataragama police area two priests Hambegamuwa Pannasara Thero and Hambegamuwa Dhamawardana Thero from the Hambegamuwa Temple were abducted by an armed gang, states the communique. It further states that at Kandy in the Central Province, security forces found two unidentified

bodies. Subversives also set fire to the Maswala and Megoda/Kalugomuwa sub-post offices and at Matale and Nuwara Eliya security forces arrested 15 suspected subversives. During a cordon and search operation security forces arrested a subversive suspect and recovered shot guns, cartridges, pistols, ammunition, swords and barber razors at Polonnaruwa in the North Central Province. A group of armed persons hacked to death M.W.D. Seneviratne at Melsiripura, North Western Province. The military wing of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Army] has claimed responsibility for the killing.

At Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka two militants shot and killed Julian who was travelling in a SLTB [Sri Lanka Transport Board] bus at Wandaramullai. In the north at Jaffna, during an exchange of fire between the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] and LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] two EPRLF members and two civilians were killed, states the communique.

194 'Subversives' Taken In for Questioning

BK1710110689 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0958 GMT 17 Oct 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 17 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—A principal of a school, a field officer and a businessman were shot and stabbed to death by unidentified gunmen at Matara in southern Sri Lanka, states a government communique issued today. The communique further states that 194 suspected subversives were taken in for questioning by the security forces.

In Colombo, Western Province, two suspected subversives were arrested with one locally made shotgun and cartridges at Kahatuduwa.

Three subversive suspects were shot dead by the security forces when they attempted to grab weapons from the security forces personnel who were escorting them to the Kelaniya Army detachment from the Mattegoda Army camp.

Security forces arrested 49 subversive suspects and handed them over to the Mirihana police for investigations.

At Wellawatte, 130 suspects were taken in for questioning by the security forces. Seven suspects were detained and the others released.

Unidentified gunmen robbed cash and jewellery from a jewellery shop in Bambalapitiya, the communique said.

At Ratnapura, in the Sabarabamuwa Province, a group of unidentified gunmen removed guns and jewellery worth Rs. [Rupees] 143,000 from the residence of M. Mahindaratne.

The Amaragama sub-post office and the documents in the Eathkumdura and Dikkumbura sub-post offices were set on fire by subversives at Galle in the Southern Province.

At Hambantota, 2 persons were shot and hacked to death by unidentified gunmen. Two filling stations were robbed of Rs. 12,908, and the Athubode sub-post office was set on fire by subversives.

The documents of the Uswewa and Moolana sub-post offices were set on fire.

In the Uva Province, at Monaragala, during an operation security forces recovered from a subversive hideout 3 muzzle-loading guns and jungle boots.

At Kandy, in the Central Province, 5 persons were shot dead by unidentified gunmen at Watapana. During a search operation, security forces recovered 140 rounds of ammunition from the same area.

At Pupuressa, during a search operation security forces recovered shot guns, cartridges, ammunition, gun powder, fuse wire and a roneo [copy] machine.

At Kadugannawa, subversives set fire to the Lanka Thilaka sub-post office and Mulgama Grama Sevaka [rural welfare department] office. All these incidents were reported from the Central Province.

In the Northwestern Province, at Kurunegala, unidentified persons abducted H.A.M. Tilakaratne Banda of Andopola, the father of a soldier, from his residence. Later, his dead body was found, the communique added.

Delhi Reports 39 killed in Violent Incidents

BK1810031989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 39 persons, including 24 JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] extremists, have been killed in unabated violence, while a team of International Red Cross officials held discussions with government authorities on the modalities of assistance to the island country. Twenty-one killings have been attributed to alleged death squads of anti-JVP vigilant groups. Three JVP extremists were killed in an exchange of fire with the security forces.